

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS

STATE OF IOWA

## CERTIFICATION OF DEATH

Name PHOEBE DIANTHA JEFFERS Certif. No. 75-00-147  
Date of Death SEPTEMBER 13 19 00 Place of Death JOHNSON TWP., PLYMOUTH CO.,  
IOWA  
Date of Birth or Age 86YRS 11MOS 7DAS Sex FEMALE Date Filed JUNE 1, 1901  
Cause of Death OLD AGE. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION-WIDOW. BORN IN NEW YORK  
STATE. BURIAL PRESBYTERIAN CEMETERY, JOHNSON TWP., PLYMOUTH CO., IOWA

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above information was taken from the Record of Death on file in this office in accordance with the law of Iowa requiring filing of vital records.

Date JUNE 20 19 74

(SEAL)

*Norman L. Pawlinski*  
STATE REGISTRAR

*Carson C. Hill*

DIRECTOR

WARNING: *This certificate is not valid if it has been altered in any way whatsoever or if it does not bear the raised seal of the Department of Health.*

R & S # 50

PARENTAGE NOT SHOWN BEFORE JULY 1904

IOWA  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
RECORDS & STATISTICS DIVISION  
Lucas Office Building  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

 **Iowa**  
a place to grow



*Diantha*

Carroll York Belknap  
25 Club Rd.  
Riverside, Conn. 06878

1900 21  
84 11  
1813-10-6  
6 Oct 1813

May 1 1974

Division of Records and Statistics  
State Dept of Health, Iowa  
Des Moines, Iowa

Gentlemen:

I shall be grateful if you can send me a copy of the death certificate of  
Diantha (Newton) Jeffers (Mrs Alba Jeffers) who is said to have died in  
Plymouth County Sept 11 1900 -- possibly at Akron.

I enclose my check for \$1. If this is not the proper fee, please let me  
know what it should be.

Very truly yours,

C. Y. Belknap:

*Diantha*

May 13 1974

Mr R H Washburn  
305 West Holly St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85003

Dear Mr Washburn:

Thanks for your prompt reply to my query about Diantha.

Can you help me still farther? Can you tell me, as fully as possible the source or sources of the information on her in your files -- as shown in George May's letter of December 10?

- Born "somewhere in New York State"
- Died Dec 11 1900, Plymouth County, Iowa
- Married Feb 13 1834 to Alba Jeffers
- Lived in Beloit, Wisconsin, at least 12 years, as son Benjamin born there Nov 10 1846.

Did all this come from just one source? Or from several sources?

My hope is that knowledge of your sources might possibly suggest to me some new line of inquiry that I might try.

Cordially,

C Y Bulknap:

*Diantha*

CARROLL YORK BELKNAP 25 Club Road Riverside, Connecticut 06878

May 2 1974

Mr R. N. Washburn  
305 W Holly St.  
Phoenix, Arizona 85003

Dear Mr Washburn:

Last December, George May kindly sent me a copy of his letter to you, dated Dec. 10.

If you have learned anything about the parentage of Diantha Phoebe Newton, I'll be most grateful if you'll aid me by telling me what you have found -- or even what efforts have not yielded results, for this sort of negative information may be helpful.

Though I agree completely with the views expressed by George May, I'm still without proof that the Diantha named in 1820 by my great great grandfather was not his child. For several reasons, the Diantha Phoebe that you have found sounds likely to be the same girl.

Very truly yours,

C. Y. Belknap:

*C. Y. Belknap*

*Dear Mr Belknap:  
Sorry, I have not gotten any more information  
on Diantha Phoebe  
I have her death certificate from the State of Iowa  
and here are the facts shown.  
Died 9/13/1900 Plymouth Co Ia. Age 86 yrs 11 mos 7 days  
Widow, born N.Y. State Buried Presbyterian Cemetery  
Johnson Twp Plymouth Co,  
Parentage not shown before July 1904*

*yours*

*R. Washburn*

Washburn

Source: D's birthdate  
+ place  
and marriage:

Queries in ~~AE~~?

→ widow of J's cousin

Can supply Vinton Len-



Diantha

December 10, 1973

Mr R. H. Washburn  
305 W. Holly Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85003

Dear Mr Washburn:

You ask for data on the Diantha, called "daughter Diantha, age 9" in a deposition made by Jonas Belknap on December 12, 1820. You state that you are seeking data on Diantha Phoebe Newton, born October 4, 1813 "somewhere in New York State"; died September 11, 1900, Plymouth County, Iowa; married February 13, 1834, at an unknown place, Alba Jeffers, born April 30, 1811, "no record of location"; died August 28, 1884, Akron, Iowa. You state further that the Jeffers' "lived in Beloit (Wisconsin) at least 12 years as their son Benjamin Alba Jeffers was born there November 10, 1846".

I cannot give you anything which would show that this Diantha Phoebe Newton was indeed the same Diantha referred to in Jonas Belknap's deposition. The fact that you have a firm date of birth of October 4, 1813 for Diantha Phoebe would seem to stretch the possibility of her having been a daughter of Asa Newton and his wife Tamar (Vinton) Newton. As Tamar was born July 30, 1766, she would have been 47 years of age at Diantha Phoebe's birth - if she were her mother. It is not impossible for a woman of age 47 to have a child but is not usual.

Have you written The Division of Records and Statistics, State Dept of Health, De Moines, Iowa 50319? For a fee they will send you copies of death certificates, and if they exist for Alba & Diantha, should give the names of their parents, as well as possibly more precise data on the places of their births. Also the Clerk of the District Court, Le Mars, Plymouth County, Iowa 51031 has many records such as birth, death and probate records from 1880 and on. He may have something of interest to you about these people.

The Asa Newton who married Tamar Vinton is not in any Newton Genealogy that I have seen. However I believe (no proof) he was the one who was a son of Oliver and Rebecca Newton of Belchertown, Massachusetts. This Oliver is shown in the book "Descendants of Richard Newton of Sudbury and Marlborough - 1638", by M Ermine Newton Leonard. There is also a Vinton Genealogy which gives the ancestry of Tamar Vinton. Should you find that these Diantha's are the same persons, and should you not have access to these books, I would be glad to look up this information for you. Couldn't do it till next year, however.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr Carroll York Belknap, 25 Club Road, Riverside, Connecticut 06878. Mr Belknap is a descendant of Jonas N. Belknap and perhaps could offer you further information on the Diantha referred to in 1820 by Jonas N.B.

Sincerely,

George May

copy



*Diantha*  
GLADYS GRAY CLAUDIA MARSHALL CLINTON BELKNAP

*George May*  
FROM CYB

May 13 1974

Subject: DIANTHA

I think that we may have found Diantha. Facts thus far reported, but not yet completely verified.

DIANTHA PHOEBE NEWTON: Born Oct 4 (or 6) 1813, "somewhere in New York State," died Sept 11 1900 (or Sept 13), in Plymouth County, Iowa; married Feb 13 1834, at an unknown place, Alba Jeffers, born April 30 1811, place not known, died Aug 28 1884 at Akron, Plymouth County, Iowa; had lived some years in Beloit, Wisc., where a son Benjamin Alba Jeffers was born. Death certificate for Diantha does not name her parents, as parentage on such certificates in Iowa was not required before July 1904.

As I think it likely that these statements will be fully verified, I'm passing them along to you without delay. One point, however, may be subject to doubt: the birth date shown for her is computed from her alleged age at death: "86 yrs, 11 mos, 7 days." If correct, this would make her aged 7 in 1820 -- not 9, as stated by Jonas in his pension application in 1820. I do not regard this as conclusive, for I have found many errors in such statements of age on gravestones and in vital records.

At the moment, I see no immediate way of discovering the parentage of this Diantha Phoebe (whose middle name, however, suggests descent from family of the Asa Newton who married Tamar Vinton, as "Phoebe" was a name used in that family). However, there is a hypothetical line of thought that might be worth examination.

Like this: In 1818, pension application in NY State, by Jonas, says nothing of a wife. In 1820, in Kentucky, he names Tamar. So, a guess compounded by a guess: (1) that the marriage to Tamar occurred in Kentucky, between dates of those two applications; (2) that Asa had died quite recently, in Kentucky; (3) that Asa and Tamar Newton had been among those who "traded" Ontario County land for some of Gidenn Granger's land in Kentucky, about 1816 -- and might be found in a more complete list of such people than the one I passed along to Gladys some months ago. . . Perhaps some helpful information might be found in one of the deeds involved in this "trade".

On guess (2), above, I'm influenced by the record of other instances in which a widower Belknap married very soon the widow of one of his cousins. In my branch of the family it would have been almost normal for such a marriage to occur, shortly after the death of the man's cousin. Claudia will recall two such instances in Oregon. . . . And the point is that, if this Asa Newton was the one we think he must have been, he was the son of a brother of Jonas's mother Mary Newton -- i.e., Jonas's cousin, which would go a long way to explain why Jonas, at about 60, married Tamar. It was just a natural thing to do, especially if Tamar had a child who needed a father in the home. Such a marriage would occur, naturally, within a very short time after the death of Asa.

If I learn anything more, I'll keep you posted.