

# Edward Norton Nowell (1911-1985) and his wife, Constance Ann Lafayette (1920-1984)

EDWARD NORTON<sup>8</sup> NOWELL (Charles Frederick Jr.<sup>7</sup>, Charles Frederick<sup>6</sup>, Shadrach<sup>5</sup>, Shadrach Jr.<sup>4</sup>, Shadrach<sup>3</sup>, Peter Jr.<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) was born at Cambridge, Massachusetts, on 6 December 1911, son of Charles F., Jr., and Julia L. (Norton) Nowell. He died in Lowell, Massachusetts, 26 June 1985, age 73 years, 6 months and 20 days.

Edward married at Montvale Congregational Church, Woburn, Massachusetts, on 8 April 1951, CONSTANCE ANN LAFAYETTE (Jesse Clinton<sup>6</sup>, Israel<sup>5</sup>, Pierre<sup>4</sup>, Joseph Pierre<sup>3</sup>, Jacques<sup>2</sup>, Jacques<sup>1</sup>) born at Winchester, Massachusetts on 8 December 1920, daughter of Jessie C. and Eleanor S. (Gustin) Lafayette. She died in Boston, Massachusetts, 21 March 1984, age 63 years 3 months 13 days.

Children of Edward and Constance (Lafayette) Nowell, born at Winchester, Massachusetts: Scott Nowell and Gary Nowell.



Edward was Charles and Julia Nowell's only child. In 1911 at the time of his birth Edward's parents were renting a home at 88 Elm Street, Cambridge, Mass. About 1913 the family moved to another rented home in Cambridge at 169 Allston Street. The Nowells moved to Somerville, Mass. about 1916. There Edward's parents rented a home at 147 Hudson Street until sometime between 1930 and 1933 when they moved to 2 Windsor Road. The family remained there until Edward's parents died in the summer of 1942.

When he was only eleven years old Edward began working after school at an A&P (Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company) grocery store. The same year, Edward started driving his uncle's car while summering in Maine and then got his Massachusetts driver's license when he was 14. Edward graduated from Somerville High School in 1930. Next to his picture in the

High School Yearbook, where students were asked for words to remember them by, it says "God gives us all some small, sweet way to see the world rejoicing." After high school Edward continued to work at the A&P and was a meat manager by the time he was twenty-six.

He reportedly made \$20 per week at the A&P during the Depression; this was pretty good pay for the time. On September 12, 1936, Edward was able to take a pleasure cruise to Havana, Cuba. We have several mementos from that trip including the ship's passenger list with his name on it. The ship was the turbo electric liner *Oriente* owned by the New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Company; it was named after the Province of Oriente in Eastern Cuba.

In 1937 Edward graduated from an eighteen-month accounting course at the Bentley School in Boston. He continued as a meat and fish manager at the A&P, employed at stores in Somerville, Medford and finally Woburn, Mass. until his retirement in 1964 at age 52.

During World War II, Edward served in the U.S. Army as a Technician Fifth Grade from May 27, 1942 to October 26, 1945. While he was in basic training both of his parents passed away: his mother on June 17, 1942 and his father, a mere 21 days later, on July 8. During the war Edward served in the Rhineland Campaign in France for 18 months as a combat medic, and then as a Meat, Dairy and Fish Inspector in Iceland for a year and in Gloucester, Mass. for his final 6 months in the service. After the war Edward lived with his aunt and uncle, William and Edith (Norton) Dods, at 20 Hillsdale Road, Medford, Mass. Edward joined the Masons in 1949, and he was a member of Samuel Crocker Lawrence (now Mystic Valley) Lodge until his death.



Following the war Edward returned to work as a manager at the Medford A&P where he met his wife to be, Constance Ann Lafayette, who was also employed there.

Constance Ann Lafayette was the fifth child of Jesse Clinton Lafayette and Eleanor Sinclair Gustin. She was born December 8, 1920 in Winchester, Massachusetts where her family owned a home at 2 Pond Street. Between 1925 and 1930 the family moved to 6 Gregg Street in Woburn, Mass. where her parents remained until their deaths in the late 1950s. Connie, as everyone knew her, attended school in Woburn. In high school she was captain of a girls basketball team and assistant sports editor for the yearbook. Connie graduated from Woburn High School in 1938.

During World War II, Constance served in the U.S. Navy Waves as a Communications Specialist, First Class from December 14, 1944 to February 12, 1947 at Naval installations in the Bronx, New York, Bethesda, Maryland and Washington, D.C.

The couple was married by the Rev. Richard Manwell at the Montvale Congregational Church, Woburn, MA on April 8, 1951. Constance's matron of honor was her sister Eleanor (Lafayette) Vallance, and her sisters, Celia Lafayette and Joan Lafayette were bridesmaids. Herman Feaver was Edward's best man and Lysander Nowell and Harvey Lafayette were ushers. A reception followed in Simmons Hall. After a honeymoon in Washington D.C. and Williamsburg, Virginia, they resided at 20 Hillsdale Road in Medford, Mass. Their first son, Scott, was born in 1952 and their second son, Gary, was born in 1956. In 1955 the Nowell family moved to a ranch style house at 563 Woburn Street, Wilmington, Mass. where Edward and Connie raised their children and lived for the rest of their lives. Although both of their sons were baptized at Montvale Congregational Church, the Nowells eventually attended the Congregational Church in Wilmington.



During most of Edward's childhood, the Nowell family had vacationed in York, Maine with relatives, especially Uncle "Billy" and Aunt Edith, whose summer home on Cape Neddick Road Edward inherited when his uncle died in 1955. Family vacations continued to be spent in York, ME, until the late fifties when Edward sold the Maine homestead. After that the family vacationed in various locations including northern New York and Canada, White Horse Beach, Plymouth, Mass., Washington, D.C. and New York City. As a couple, Ed and Connie traveled to Florida and the Cayman Islands. Eventually Ed and Connie purchased a vacation property on Big Island Pond at Collette's Grove, Derry, New Hampshire, where they spent many happy weekends.



Wilmington, Mass. house



York, Maine house



Derry, N.H. house

After retiring from the A&P Edward worked for several years in maintenance at Compugraphic in Wilmington, MA. Soon after this Connie took the civil service examination, reportedly getting the second highest score at that time. She was hired by the United States Postal Service as a mail sorter at the regional sectional center in Woburn, Mass. She retired from the post office about 1980.

Connie and Ed's son Scott married Gayle Leighton in 1974, and in January of 1980 their first grandchild, Samantha, was born bringing much joy to her grandparents over the next four years. Connie enjoyed sewing and knitting, and she made little outfits for Samantha, as well as mittens and other items for the rest of the family. She was a good cook and the family always enjoyed dinner at the Nowell house.

Connie took ill on Thanksgiving Eve 1983. She was admitted to the ICU at Winchester hospital with difficulty breathing. On Thanksgiving night, she had a stroke which damaged her right side. The stroke was caused by a hardened valve in her heart. Constance died suddenly, on March 21, 1984, while undergoing surgery to repair the valve.

Later that year in October, Ed and Connie's son Gary married Nancy Dwyer, and the newlyweds generously stayed on in Wilmington to take care of Ed as his health rapidly declined. Edward died on June 26, 1985, only fourteen months after Constance. Edward is buried alongside his wife in Woodbrook Cemetery, Woburn, Mass.

