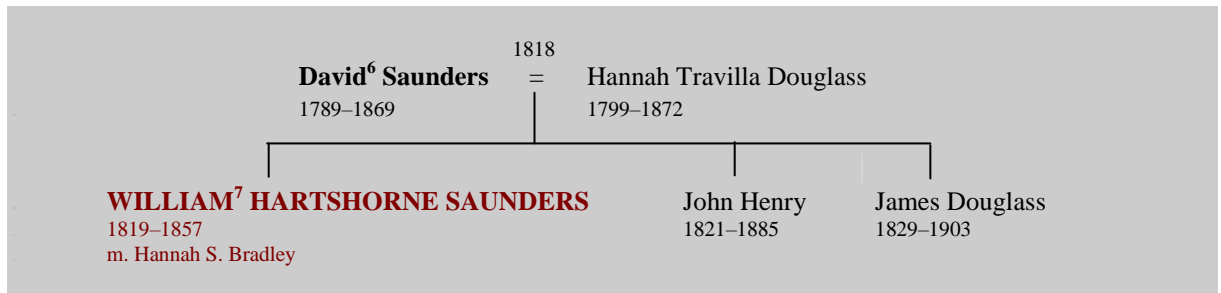


Chapter Five

Revised
January 2021**DR. WILLIAM⁷ HARTSHORNE SAUNDERS**
1819–1857*Washington DC to Nicaragua*

WILLIAM⁷ HARTSHORNE SAUNDERS was born 28 June 1819 at Milford, Ohio during the Presidency of James Monroe and the penultimate year of the reign of George III of Great Britain. He was the eldest child of David⁶ Saunders (1789–1869) and his wife Hannah⁵ Travilla Douglass (1799–1873). That David should give his first-born the name William Hartshorne implies the importance of that family connection in his life. David's father died when he was an infant and even though he was legally under the guardianship of his stepfather, Phillip Wanton, we suspect that the Hartshorne family in Alexandria played a key role in his upbringing.

William would have been about six years old when his family moved to Washington DC. While we know nothing of his formative years, the late researcher Ruth Lincoln Kaye of Alexandria, provided the following brief biographical capsule on William Hartshorne Saunders extracted from material at the *National Genealogical Society Library*, Arlington, Virginia:

He was born in D.C. and graduated 1848 from the *University of Pennsylvania*. **He left DC about January 1854.** Died in Nicaragua 1860 "during the late and disastrous invasion of this country by Walker, the 'freebooter'".

1852–53 served as recording secretary of the DC Medical Society; was on committee 1853 to amend its charter; was 86th in seniority to become member of DC Medical Society, becoming member on June 5, 1848, (when grad. UPA).

References: *History of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia 1817–1909*, published by the Society 1909:-

- P. 240: William H. Saunders was born in D.C., (received) MD degree in 1848 from *University of Pennsylvania*. **Left District about January 1854.** Died in Nicaragua in 1860 during the late and disastrous invasion of that country by Walker, the "freebooter".
- P. 417: On January 11, 1853 was on committee to amend charter of the Society; the revision was accepted January 2, 1854.
- P. 429: He served as recording secretary of the Society 1852–1853.
History (op. cit.) Part II, 1833–1944.
- P. 157: He was recording secretary of the Medical Society of D.C. 1852–1853.
- P. 181: In numerical sequence of those admitted to the Society, he was #86.
- P. 193: He was admitted June 6, 1848.

(Note: The Society's records are incorrect as to William's place of birth and also the year of his death).

Nancy R. Miller, Public Services Archivist, *University of Pennsylvania*, said that a publication entitled *Catalogue of the Alumni of the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania, 1765–1877*, was produced in 1877. On page 158 it lists William H. Saunders graduating in 1848. At the time he resided in the District of Columbia. The subject of his essay was *pneumonia*. An annotation in the margin below his name, hand-written sometime after publication, reads as follows:

d. in Nicaragua during the last & disastrous invasion of that country by Walker (Wm. of Med. Class of '43)

| Name | Residence | Date | Subject of Essay |
|---|---------------|------|------------------|
| + Saunders, William H. | Dist. of Col. | 1848 | Pneumonia. |
| <i>d. in Nicaragua during the last & disastrous invasion of that country by Walker (Wm. of Med. Class of '43) / ...</i> | | | |

There is no date or year mentioned in the annotation on the Alumni records. Someone later has incorrectly assumed that it was 1860, presumably since that was the year Walker made his final, and for him, fatal attempt to enter Nicaragua. In fact, Walker's last foray to Central America failed when he was captured by the British in Honduras and handed over to the local authorities who executed him.

John Rees, MA, MLIS, Curator, Archives and Modern Manuscripts, History of Medicine Division, *National Library of Medicine* in Bethesda, Maryland reported the following with respect to William's role as secretary of the *Medical Society of the District of Columbia*:

I looked into the meeting minutes volume dated 1838–1866 for information about Wm. Saunders. Indeed he scribed meeting minutes as secretary and his signature is attached to each recording. At the January 2, 1854 meeting, a resolution passed "expressing the esteem and best wishes of the Society for the former Secretary, Dr. Saunders, who declined re-election **as he was about to leave the city**. His second last meeting as secretary was July 4, 1853 and his last minutes are only dated 1853.

I read the transactions through to 1865 and at the occasion of a member's death the society passed a resolution of thanks and mourning – I did not find any mention of Saunders's passing.

Mr Rees provided a copy of William's signature mentioned above.

Wm. H. Saunders M.D.
Secy. Socy.

1 July 1847

The first stamp issue of the U.S. was offered for sale in New York City with Boston receiving stamps the next day and other cities thereafter. They consisted of an engraved 5-cent red-brown stamp depicting Benjamin Franklin who was the first postmaster of the United States. A fresh and brilliantly printed 5-cent stamp is prized by collectors



William⁷ Hartshorne Saunders was married to Hannah S. Bradley on the 24th December 1851 by the Rev. Dr. Butler probably in the home of Hannah's father Joseph Bradley in Washington DC. Researcher Sharon Hodges of Alexandria located a notice of the marriage which was placed in the *Daily National Intelligencer* on Saturday, 27th December:

MARRIAGES.

On the evening of the 24th instant, by the Rev. Dr BUTLER, Dr. WILLIAM H. SAUNDERS to HANNAH S. daughter of JOSEPH H. BRADLEY, Esq., all of this city.

The Superior Court of the District of Columbia provided details of the Marriage Licence issued to the couple the same day. William would have been thirty-two years old and Hannah about twenty-four.

Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Certificate of Issuance of Marriage License
(Without Returns)

The Clerk of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, does hereby certify that the records of said Court show that a marriage license was issued to

_____ William Hartshorne Saunders _____

and _____ Hannah S. Bradley _____

on the _____ 24th _____ day of _____ December _____, 1851 _____

I further certify that prior to June 1, 1870, the laws of the District of Columbia did not require officiating clergymen to make returns of marriages solemnized by them, and that no such returns are of record.

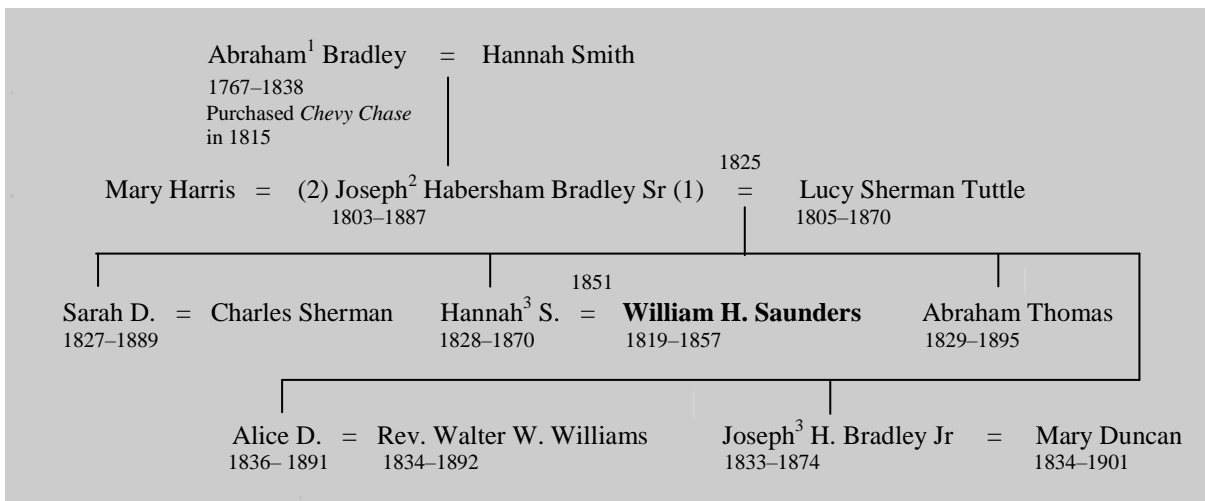
In testimony whereof, I hereunto subscribe my name and affix the seal of said Court at the City of Washington this _____ 24th _____ day of _____ September _____, 50 _____

CLERK OF THE COURT

By _____ Deputy Clerk

FORM 100-100-100-100 1000-100-100

The Bradley Family



The late George Kackley, superintendent of the *Oak Hill Cemetery*, indicated in his correspondence that Lot 465 is the lot of Joseph² Habersham Bradley, Sr., (1803-1887) a most outstanding Washington lawyer of the 19th century and a member of a very important family. The fine plantation he inherited was just outside the District of Columbia boundary at Chevy Chase, Montgomery County, Maryland. That farm and the home were sold about the turn of the century to become the Chevy Chase Country Club and a great suburban development.

Researcher Kaye also provided some brief information on the Bradley family:

Re Bradley Family.

Hannah Bradley (c.1827-3 Sep 1870), daughter of Joseph Bradley, prominent member of DC bar, about whom we have information: Joseph Bradley, Esq., eminent member of DC Bar, was consulted by DC Medical Society re the propriety of subscribers to a fund to build a house for medical museum and library. [Ref: *History of Medical Society of DC 1817-1909*, p. 85]

His son, Joseph H. Bradley, brother of Hannah (who m. Dr. Saunders), was on a finance committee in September 1867, re trust fund for the above building. [Ibid, p. 86]

Joseph² Habersham Bradley Sr. was the son of Abraham¹ Bradley who was born 22 February 1767 in Litchfield, Connecticut. Abraham studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1791. He later moved to Washington, DC where he was assistant postmaster general for nearly forty years. Abraham had a townhouse in Washington DC and a country estate called *Chevy-Chase* in nearby Maryland.

Abraham¹ Bradley died 8 May 1838 and was buried on his country estate. His remains were later removed to the Bradley Lot in *Oak Hill Cemetery*.

28 June 1838

Queen Victoria's coronation took place at Westminster Abbey just a year after she succeeded to the throne at age 18. She was born 24 May 1819 in London and died 22 January 1901 on the Isle of Wight after reigning for 63 years. In 1840 she married Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha and they had nine children. Albert died in 1861 and Victoria entered a state of mourning and wore black for the remainder of her life.



Queen Victoria
1819-1901

The *National Intelligencer* in Washington DC published a lengthy obituary for Abraham Bradley the same day he died:

DEATH.

In this city, on Monday night, ABRAHAM BRADLEY, Esq. one of our most venerable and respected fellow-citizens, and formerly, for a long series of years, honorably known as filling, with distinguished ability, the arduous trust of Assistant Postmaster General.

ABRAHAM BRADLEY was born on the 22d day of February, 1767. He read law in the office and under the immediate direction of the late Judge REESE, of Litchfield, and settled at Wilkesbarre, in the valley of Wyoming. He was soon appointed a judge, and retained the office until just before his removal to Philadelphia. He entered the Post Office Department when under the direction of Mr. PICKERING, and was, shortly afterwards, upon its first organization, appointed Assistant Postmaster General, which office he retained till the month of September, 1829, when he was removed without cause by the Executive from an office in which he had rendered, and was rendering, invaluable services to his country. Since then he has lived in privacy, holding, for the last two years, the office of Secretary to the Franklin Insurance Company in this city.

The fidelity, ability, and unwearied industry with which he discharged his public duties were known to all. To his surviving children and friends it must be gratifying, indeed, to be able to look to the whole of his life as full of bright examples, and illustrated by the strictest integrity.

☞ The remains of the deceased will be removed from his present residence on 7th street, at 9 o'clock on Thursday morning, to his farm, where they will be buried. His friends are invited to attend without further notice

oOo

Joseph² Habersham Bradley

Joseph, son of Abraham¹ Bradley, was born 22 March 1803 in Washington DC. On 5 December 1825 he married Lucy Sherman Tuttle of New Haven, Connecticut.

Lucy Sherman Tuttle Bradley died 9 April 1870. Her death and funeral arrangements were reported in the evening edition of the *Washington Star News* the same day:

BRADLEY. On the 9th inst., at Chevy Chase, Montgomery county, Md., LUCY S., wife of Joseph H. Bradley.
The friends of the family are invited to attend her funeral at Oak Hill Cemetery, on Monday, April 11, at 12 o'clock m.

She was buried in Lot 0465 at *Oak Hill Cemetery*. Her headstone reads:

LUCY S. TUTTLE
Wife of Joseph H. Bradley
Born 21 January 1804
Died 9 April 1870

Joseph² Habersham Bradley died 3 April 1887 at the age of 84. He was buried in Lot 0465 at *Oak Hill Cemetery* in Lot 0465.



oOo

The Washington Post carried a lengthy obituary on 4 April, 1887:

DEATH OF MR. BRADLEY

HIS LONG COMBAT WITH DEATH ENDED AT LAST

He expires at His Home in West Washington – A sketch of His Eventful and Honorable Life

Joseph H. Bradley, the venerable lawyer, who has been lying at the point of death, at his residence in West Washington, for the last two weeks, died at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon. His son, Thomas Bradley, and his daughter, Mrs. Williams, besides several of friends of the family, were with him at the time of his demise. He had been unconscious for two or three days, and death came so gradually that it was hard to tell just when the line that separates life and death was passed. His advanced age was the primary cause of his death, and but for his strong mental and physical constitution, this end would have occurred at least a month ago. His funeral will take place on Thursday, and the interment will be made in Oak Hill Cemetery, but the pall-bearers have not as yet been selected.



Joseph² H. Bradley
1803–1887

THE STORY OF HIS LIFE

The story of Mr Bradley's life is the history of the City of Washington. He has seen it grow up from the straggling village of eighty years ago into the beautiful city of today. He was born March 23, 1803, in a house that stood on New York Avenue between Seventeenth and Eighteenth streets. His father was Abraham Bradley, of Connecticut, who was the first Postmaster General of the United States. He was appointed by Gen. Washington, and remained at the head of the Post Office Department through successive administrations until the election of Gen. Jackson, who turned him out in 1829.

Mr. Bradley grew up in Washington and attended the public schools here until he was prepared for college. He then went to Yale, where he graduated at the age of eighteen in the class of 1821. He then returned to Washington, where he studied law for three years—first under Mr. Caldwell, then clerk of the Supreme Court, and afterwards under Richard L. Cox. At the same time he held a clerical position in the office of the clerk of the Supreme Court. He was admitted to the bar of

Montgomery County, Md., in November, 1824, and the following April became a member of the District bar. He was married December 5, 1825, to Miss Lucy Sherman Tuttle, of New Haven, Conn. Of the five children born to them but two are living—A. Thomas Bradley, of this city, and Mrs. Rev. Dr Williams, of Baltimore. Mr Bradley married Miss Mary Harris, whom he had defended nearly twenty years before on a charge of murder.

A CONSPICUOUS MEMBER OF THE BAR

Mr. Bradley, for years prior to his death, was the most conspicuous member of the District bar. He took his place among the leaders in his profession from the very beginning of his career, and for sixty years he has held that place; and men have grown gray in the practice of the profession who as youngsters studied law in his office.

Mr. Bradley was connected in a professional capacity with many of the celebrated cases that have been tried before the courts of the District during his long career. One of his earliest cases was what is known as the Brown and Wylie case. Tillotson Brown was the brother of Marshall Brown, who for many years kept the Metropolitan Hotel, then known as Brown's Hotel. Tillotson Brown died, leaving a widow and a daughter who was married to a man named Wilie. Marshall Brown, soon after his brother's death, brought suit to recover the property on the ground that Mrs. Brown was not the wife of his brother, and that Mrs Wilie was not his child, but was the child of a Speaker of the House of Representatives. The testimony established the fact of the marriage, but one of the jurors objecting, for some conscientious reason, to agreeing to a verdict, the result was a disagreement, and the case was not retried, but it was said, and Mr. Bradley never denied the report, that his clients paid Brown \$10,000 to compromise matters.

The famous Know-Nothing riots in 1857, growing out of the contested election for Aldermen, between John H. Goddard and Matthew Emory, and resulting in the death of several persons at the old North Liberty market house, again brought Mr. Bradley prominently before the public. He defended the rioters and succeeded in getting them off.

DISBARRED DURING THE SURRETT TRIAL

His association with the defence of the Surratts in the famous trial for conspiracy to murder President Lincoln gave Mr. Bradley a national reputation, and at the same time temporarily cut short his career as a lawyer. One day during the trial, the presiding Justice, Judge Fisher, had been particularly caustic in some of his rulings against the defence, and though Mr. Bradley restrained himself while court was sitting he took occasion after adjournment to remonstrate with Judge Fisher as he was leaving the bench. The Judge resented this action and some hot words passed between them. Judge Fisher finally said that if it were not for his ill-health he would inflict personal punishment on Bradley for his imputations of unfairness. Mr. Bradley replied that he was ready to settle it then and there, and would offset the Judge's infirmity with his own advanced age. The matter was dropped on both sides after this, and nothing more occurred until after the first trial had resulted in a disagreement of the jury, when, just before the adjournment of court, Judge Fisher announced the disbarment of Mr. Bradley for attempting to intimidate the court by threats of personal violence, and he then rehearsed the occurrences of the previous day. Mr. Bradley denied that the facts were in accordance with the Judge's statements, and high words again passed. The same day, as Judge Fisher was entering a street car, Mr. Bradley advanced toward him and threw paper after him in the car. This was construed as a challenge, but no blood was shed. Some time after, however, the two men met on the street and Mr. Bradley made a violent attack on Judge Fisher. He made many unsuccessful efforts before he was finally reinstated by the Supreme Court about six years after his disbarment.

THE HARRIS-BURROUGHS MURDER

By far the most romantic event in the life of Judge Bradley was his connection with the case of Mary Harris who was tried for murder in 1865. During the war she lived in Chicago where she held a position in a store, and where she became engaged to be married to Adoniram Burroughs. The latter enlisted in the army and afterwards came to Washington and got a place in the Treasury Department. At first the couple corresponded regularly but finally he met another lady whom he wished to marry, and wishing to break off with Miss Harris, he set a trap for her and had her decoyed to a house in Chicago, which proved to be a disreputable resort. As soon as she discovered the deception that had been practiced on her she traced it to its author. She learned the whole plot and his motive for getting rid of her, and then came on to Washington. One day she quietly went to the Treasury Department and stationed herself in the passageway, near the room where he was employed, and waited. When the word for closing came and he came out of the room, she shot him dead.

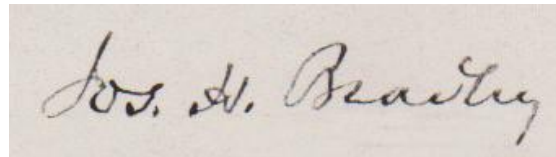
JUDGE BRADLEY MARRIES HIS CLIENT

She was arrested and while awaiting trial Mr. Bradley became interested in her case, and defended her with the assistance of Senator Voorhees. She was acquitted on the ground that the killing was the result of paroxysmal insanity. After her acquittal she was in the asylum from time to time for several years. Mr. Bradley kept up his interest in her and finally, to the surprise of all his friends and notwithstanding the fact that he was then over eighty years of age, he married her.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Mr. Bradley was a man of fine presence and a ready talker, He was regarded as one of the best criminal lawyers in the country, and it is said that in no case of homicide in which he appeared for the defence was the defendant found guilty of murder. His physical strength and vitality were remarkable, and notwithstanding his advanced age, his mind was perfectly clear until the end of his life. His death was caused by a gradual wearing out of his vitality, brought on by his advanced age. He had not been perfectly well for six months or more, and about a month ago his condition became such as to cause serious apprehension.

oOo



Joseph² H. Bradley - Signature in 1878

Joseph² H. Bradley I and his wife Lucy Sherman Tuttle had five children:

- A. Sarah³ D. Bradley, called Sally, was born 31 August 1826 in Washington, DC and died 22 August 1886. She was buried in the Bradley Lot 0465 at *Oak Hill Cemetery*. Sarah married Charles A. Sherman, a real estate broker. He was born in New Jersey about 1825.

In 1855 James⁷ Douglass Saunders, the younger brother of Dr. William⁷ H. Saunders who had married Sarah's sister Hannah, composed and dedicated a Polka to Sarah (Sally) D. Bradley. → See Chapter 8.

Sarah³ Bradley and Charles Sherman had two daughters:

- i. Beula⁴ Walden Sherman was born 21 March 1858 in New Jersey and died 10 October 1925 in Washington DC. She was buried with her mother in Oak Hill Cemetery. Beula married Cunningham Robert Peyton on 30 April 1893 in Washington DC. He was born 1857 in Virginia and died 21 January 1922.
 - ii. Ella⁴ or Alice Sherman was born about 1863 in New Jersey.
- B. Hannah³ S. Bradley was born about 1828 and died 3 September 1870. She married **Dr. William⁷ Hartshorne Saunders**, the subject of this chapter.
- C. Abraham³ Thomas Bradley Sr. was born 9 September 1829 in Washington DC. He married Mary F. Hughes. She was born about 1835 in Kentucky and died 15 October 1864. Abraham died 15 July 1895 and his death was reported in *The Washington Post* the next day:

BRADLEY--On Monday, July 15, 1895, at the residence of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Mary D. Bradley, No. 1688, Thirty-first street northwest, Abraham Thomas Bradley, in the sixty-sixth year of his age. Funeral from Oak Hill Chapel on Wednesday, July 17, at 5 o'clock p. m.

- D. Joseph³ Habersham Bradley II (or Jr.) was born 4 September 1831 in Montgomery, Maryland. He became an attorney. He was first married to Eliza McGill Thomas in 1856. She was born 12 December 1835 and died 12 March 1859. After Eliza's death Joseph married Mary Pollard Duncan on 4 June 1863. She was born 6 June 1834 in Pennsylvania and died 30 May 1901.

A Portrait of Old Georgetown by Grace Dunlop Ecker:

Abraham¹ Bradley's grandson Joseph Henry [Habersham?] Bradley built a house at number 1688 31st Street. At the time of Lincoln's assassination he was living out in the country near Georgetown. He bore a remarkable resemblance to John Wilkes Booth and on April 15, 1865, the night after the tragic event in Ford's Theatre. He was driving home in his buggy along a lonely road when he was held up by a policeman and arrested. When he protested, he was told that he was John Wilkes Booth and was taken to jail. He insisted he was not, but to no avail. After a good while he got in touch with friends who identified him and he was released and went home. His wife had thought that her colored servants had been behaving strangely all day, but though living not more than five miles from the scene of the great tragedy, she herself had no knowledge of it.

Joseph³ H. Bradley II (or Jr.) died in Chevy Chase, Maryland on 28 August 1874 aged 42. His death was reported in *The Evening Star* the same day:

DIED

BRADLEY. In Georgetown, D.C., on the 28th day of August, A.D. 1874, **JOSEPH H. BRADLEY, Jr.**, aged 42 years.

The funeral will take place from his late residence on Congress, near Road street on Sunday, August 30th, at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

Mary Duncan Bradley died 30 May 1901. Her death was reported in *The Washington Post* the following day:

DIED.

BRADLEY—On Thursday, May 30, 1901, at her residence, 1688 Thirty-first street, West Washington, in her sixty-seventh year, Mary Duncan Bradley, widow of Joseph H. Bradley, jr.

Funeral from the house Saturday, June 1, at 3 o'clock p. m.
(Baltimore and Philadelphia papers please copy.)

Joseph³ II and Mary Duncan Bradley were buried in Lot 0465 at *Oak Hill Cemetery*.



Joseph³ H. Bradley II (or Jr.) and Mary Duncan had six children:

- i. Margaret⁴ Bradley was born 1858.
- ii. Mary⁴ Hughes Bradley was born 1866. She married James William McCulloch on 12 April 1893. He was born 9 October 1857 and died 1938. Their marriage was announced in *The Baltimore Sun* the same day:

⚭ A wedding of considerable importance to many of the oldest resident families took place today at noon at Christ Church, Georgetown. The couple was Miss Mary Hughes Bradley, daughter of Mrs. Joseph Bradley and granddaughter of the late Judge Bradley, of the District bench, and the groom was Mr. James W. McCulloch, of New York city.

- iii. Nina⁴ Duncan Bradley was born 15 July 1869 in Maryland and died 22 May 1925. She was buried at Oak Hill Cemetery. Nina married Harry Grant Hodgkins Sr. on 8 November 1893. He was born in 1867 in Chicago, Illinois and died 10 February 1935. Their pending marriage was announced in the *Evening Star, DC* on 26 October 1893. They had four children.

Mrs. Mary Duncan Bradley has issued cards for the marriage of her daughter, Nina Duncan, to Mr. Harry Grant Hodgkins on Wednesday, November 8, at 1 o'clock, at Christ Church, Georgetown.

- iv. Joseph⁴ Habersham Bradley III was born 23 March 1870 in Washington, DC. He married Eleanor Mayer Parrish on 14 January 1903. She was born 27 October 1869 and died 9 February 1904, perhaps a result of complications following the birth of her only child nine days earlier:
 - a. Joseph⁵ Habersham Bradley IV was born 31 January 1904 and died 16 July 1910 in Maryland. He was buried at Oak Hill Cemetery.

After Eleanor's death Joseph⁴ married her sister Anna Parrish in October 1906. She was born 22 October 1867. They had one child

- b. Mary⁵ Parrish Bradley was born 8 August 1911 and died 28 March 1993. She married Charles Law Watkins on 23 June 1942. He was born 1886 and died 1945. Both were prominent members of the art world.

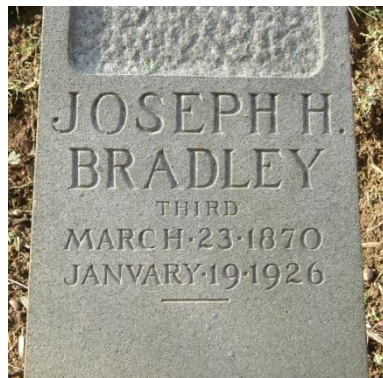
Joseph⁴ III died 19 January 1926 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. His passing was reported in *The Washington Post*, p. 3, on the 21st January:

BRADLEY – On Tuesday, January 19, 1926, at 2.15 p.m. at Atlantic City. **JOSEPH HAVERSHAM**, beloved husband on Anna Parrish Bradley. Funeral to be held at Christ Church, Georgetown, on Friday, January 22 at 2 p.m. Interment to be private at Oak Hill Cemetery

Anna Parrish Bradley died 31 March 1948. Her death was funeral service was carried by the *Washington Post* on 5 April 1948:

BRADLEY, ANNA P. On Wednesday, March 31, 1948, in Lenox, Mass., ANNA P. BRADLEY, wife of the late Joseph H. Bradley and mother of Mrs. C. Law Watkins. Services will be held at Christ Church, 31st and O sts. nw., on Tuesday, April 6, at 10 a. m. Interment private.

Joseph⁴ and Anna Parish Bradley were buried in Lot 0465 at *Oak Hill Cemetery*



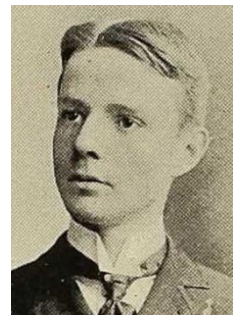
OCTOBER
22nd 1867

ANNA C. PARRISH
BELOVED WIFE OF
JOSEPH H. BRADLEY III

MARCH
31st 1948

*Monument of Joseph H. Bradley III
at Oak Hill Cemetery*

- v. Lucy⁴ Duncan Bradley was born 1872 in Washington DC.
- vi. Stephen⁴ Duncan Bradley was born 11 December 1874 in Washington DC and died 30 April 1931. He married Mary G. Blake on 21 February 1906. She was born 11 August 1881 and died 5 August 1931. Both are buried at Oak Hill Cemetery.



Stephen Duncan Bradley

*Stephen Duncan Bradley
WWI Draft Registration Card*

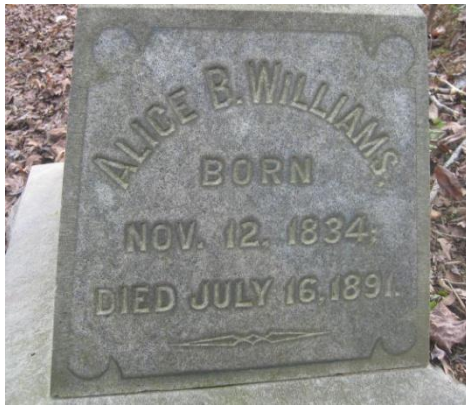
*Stephen Duncan Bradley
1874-1931
Columbian University
Law School - 1897*

- E. Alice³ D. Bradley was born 12 November 1834 in Washington DC. Alice married the Reverend Dr. Walter W. Williams. He was born 4 May 1834 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Alice³ D. (Bradley) Williams died 16 July 1891 in Baltimore, Maryland. Her death was announced in *The Baltimore Sun*, p. 3, on 17 July:

WILLIAMS – On Thursday, July 16 at 10 o'clock P.M.,
ALICE BRADLEY, wife of Rev. Walter W. Williams, D.D.

She was initially buried in Baltimore but was re-interred in Lot 0617 at *Oak Hill Cemetery* on 24 October 1892.



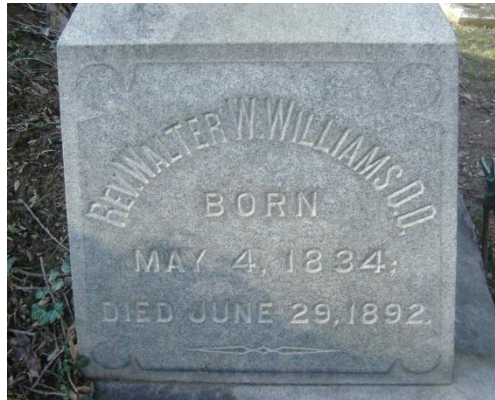
ALICE B. WILLIAMS
BORN
NOV 12, 1834
DIED JULY 16, 1891

The Rev. Walter Williams died 29 June 1892 in Sudbrook Park, Baltimore County, Maryland. An obituary appeared in *The Washington Post* the next day:

Rev. Walter W. Williams Dead.
BALTIMORE, June 29.—Rev. Dr. Walter W. Williams, late rector of Christ Episcopal Church, of this city, died this morning at Sudbrook Park, where he was spending the summer with his sister. Dr. Williams was affected about two years ago with a disease of the stomach from which he never rallied. He resigned the rectorship of Christ Church October last. Dr. Williams was a native of Norfolk, Va., and had charges at Leesburz, Va., Georgetown, D. C., and St. George's Church in New York before coming to Baltimore. He was the rector at Christ Church for ten years. He leaves a brother and sister.

Walter W. Williams
1876 Passport

Rev. Williams was buried at *Oak Hill Cemetery* in Lot 0617 which he had purchased on 13 May 1892.



End of Bradley Family

28 October 1886

The Statue of Liberty was dedicated on this day. It is a colossal neoclassical sculpture on Liberty Island in New York Harbor gifted to the United States from the people of France. The copper statue was designed by Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi and built by Gustave Eiffel. The statue is a robed female figure representing *Libertas*, the Roman goddess who bears a torch and a tablet upon which is inscribed the date of the American Declaration of Independence: July 4, 1776.



Dr. William⁷ Hartshorne Saunders died **11 February 1857** of dysentery at San Juan del Sur in Nicaragua. He was said to be the surgeon on the Nicaraguan schooner *Granada* which had been commandeered by the filibuster William Walker some seven months earlier. Researcher Sharon Hodges located a report of William's death in the *Daily National Intelligencer* of Washington DC on 31 March 1857:

At San Juan, February 11th, of dysentery, Dr. WM. H. SAUNDERS, surgeon of the Nicaraguan schooner *Granada*, aged 37 years. Dr. S. formerly resided in this city, where he has left relatives and numerous friends to lament his loss.

On the 1st of October 1859, **more than two and a half years later**, William's father David Saunders purchased a plot at *Oak Hill Cemetery* in Washington, DC.

The Deed relating to the purchase of this plot reads as follows:

Washington City, District of Columbia
October first 1859

Know all men by these presents that I have for value received, this day sold and do hereby sell, transfer, and convey to D. Saunders of the City and District aforesaid all my right title and interest to the Southern half of Lot No. 432 lying and being in Oak Hill Cemetery in the District of Columbia and Containing Seventy Five Square feet of ground to be determined by a straight line running East and West through the Centre of said Lot, to have and to hold the same for himself and his heirs forever. As Witness my hand and seal the day and year above written.

Sarah Hanson (seal)

Witness: M. Caldwell

Above entered on back of record of Deed of S. D. Hanson in office
of Oak Hill Cemetery Co. Page 113
Nov 3 1859

Henry King Tres. OHC. Co

The Deed makes no mention of who is interred in the plot purchased by David Saunders. However, the late George Kackley, the superintendent (in 1983) of *Oak Hill Cemetery* provided the following information about Lot 432:

There is a handsome white marble monument on the lot. It is a four-foot tall obelisk on a base that stands four feet high. The monument stands in a choice location in this prestigious cemetery. Its inscription reads:

TO THE MEMORY
of
Dr. William H.
SAUNDERS
ELDEST SON OF
David and Hannah T.
SAUNDERS
of Washington, D.C.
November 1, 1859

The Cemetery records indicate that William was interred in the plot on the 1st November 1859. However, Kackley suggested the possibility he died elsewhere and his remains were moved to *Oak Hill Cemetery* for re-burial. Given the hostilities which were taking place in and around San Juan del Sur in Nicaragua at the time of William's death it is most unlikely that his body was returned to Washington DC and interred in another cemetery. William died on 11 February. Notice of his passing did not appear in the newspaper until the 31st March—some six weeks later. It has to be appreciated that there was a war raging in Nicaragua. Men were dying of disease and wounds received in battle every day. It would have been quite impractical, even if it was possible, to return the bodies of the deceased to their families in the United States for burial. The part of Nicaragua in question is 11^o latitude. Hot, tropical conditions prevailed and bodies would have had to be buried very quickly.

It also seems most unlikely that his remains—assuming they could be found—were exhumed two and a half years later and brought back to Washington, DC for burial at *Oak Hill Cemetery*. The late Joseph Pozell, Kackley's successor at Oak Hill Cemetery, not having any evidence to the contrary, rightfully accepted the cemetery records and stated the following in his correspondence on the matter:

Our records from the 1850s are not complete. The plot book shows that David Saunders purchased Lot 432 on October 1, 1859 and that William H. Saunders **was interred** in November 1, 1859. Our records do not indicate a re-interment. Mr. Kackley's thoughts on the possibilities concerning this interment are purely conjecture.

A more plausible scenario is that David Saunders, perhaps anticipating that he would soon be migrating for California with his family, arranged for a suitable memorial in memory of his dead son, whose remains lay somewhere near San Juan del Sur on the west coast of Nicaragua. The wording of the inscription on the monument would suggest that. It is nonetheless surprising that there is no mention of William's wife or child on either his epitaph or in the newspaper's notice of his death.

oOo

Either while William was absent in Nicaragua or after he died, Hannah and their daughter Lucy moved back into her parents' house. The Census of 6 August 1860 records Hannah and Lucy living in the home of Joseph H. Bradley in Washington DC. The Census of 28 July 1870 shows Hannah and Lucy at Chevy Chase, Montgomery County, Maryland.

Hannah died 3 September 1870 aged just 43. She was buried two days later in Lot No. 465 in *Oak Hill Cemetery*. Researcher Kaye located a report of her death in the *Washington Evening Star* on 3 September 1870:

SAUNDERS – On the 3rd instant, at Chevy Chase Montgomery County, Maryland, the residence of father, Jos. H. Bradley, **Mrs. HANNAH S. SAUNDERS**, widow of Dr. W. H. Saunders, formerly of the city of Washington. Her funeral will take place at Oak Hill Cemetery on Monday, 5th September, at 5 o'clock p.m.

William⁷ Hartshorne Saunders and Hannah³ S. Bradley had one daughter:

Lucy⁸ Maude Saunders was born 14 June 1854. She died 3 June 1876 of epilepsy and is also buried in the Bradley lot.

The following appears in the records of *Oak Hill Cemetery*:

Lucy Maude Saunders, born in Washington, D.C. c.1854
died 3 June 1878, aged 23 years, 11 months, 18 days
Last residence at Chevy Chase, Md.
buried 3 Jun 1878 in lot 465.

Researcher Sharon Hodges provided a copy of the newspaper announcement of Lucy's death which appeared in the *Evening Star* on the 4th of June 1878:

**SAUNDERS. On the 3d of June, 1878, at Cherry Shade, the residence of Joseph H. Bradley, her grandfather, Miss LUCY MAUDE SAUNDERS, aged twenty-four years.
Funeral at Oak Hill on Wednesday, the 5th inst. at 2 p.m.**

oOo

In the late 1850s, considering the political upheavals then, it is difficult to imagine transporting what is left of a corpse from the tropics of Nicaragua to Washington DC. The information from the *National Genealogical Society Library* supplied by Kaye has William's place of birth incorrect. The hand-written notes in the family bible record that he was born at Milford, Ohio, not Washington DC. → See Chapter 4: David Saunders 1789–1869.

Why William, with his education, conservative Quaker family background and his service with the DC Medical Society left the comforts of his professional and family life in Washington, DC to venture into what must have been a hostile country like Nicaragua is a mystery. It looks likely that he was involved in some fashion with the filibusterer William Walker and perhaps, like many others, he was influenced by the hype surrounding Walker's filibustering activities and his idealistic goals. An interesting example is Thomas Francis Meagher—*Meagher of the Sword* (1823–1867).

→ See Chapter 13: The Meagher Family, Part Five.

If William Saunders was involved with Walker in Nicaragua he may have alienated his family and particularly his in-laws. He was only married a few years when he is said to have left Washington DC, leaving behind a young wife and newborn daughter. No records have been found which directly link William H. Saunders with Walker other than his newspaper obituary which said he was the surgeon on Walker's schooner the *Granada*.

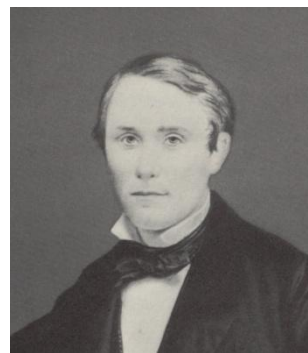
Both men graduated from the prestigious University of Pennsylvania medical school—Saunders in 1848 and Walker five years earlier in 1843. Given the five-year gap between their respective graduations it is unlikely the two would have crossed paths at the university.

William Walker 1824–1859

There are numerous books relating the life and times of William Walker. The following titles were consulted unsuccessfully to locate any mention of Dr. William H. Saunders.

- *The War in Nicaragua*, by William Walker
- *Sad Swashbuckler—the Life of William Walker*, by Noel B. Gerson
- *The Filibuster—the Career of William Walker* by Laurence Greene
- *Freebooters Must Die—The Life and Death of William Walker*, by Frederic Rosengarten, Jr.
- *Filibusters and Financiers—The story of William Walker and his Associates* by William O. Scroggs
- *With Walker in Nicaragua: Or Reminiscences of an Officer of the American Phalanx*, by James Carson Jamieson

A brilliant academic, Walker graduated from the University of Nashville with two degrees at the age of sixteen. Deciding to study medicine, he read in the office of Dr Jennings in preparation to entering medical school. He then enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania medical school where he won a *summa cum laude* degree in medicine in 1843. He was just nineteen years old. Within a few years he discarded his medical career and decided to take up law, going to New Orleans where he studied the *Code Napoléon**. He was admitted to the Louisiana bar in 1847 and entered into a partnership with Edmund Randolph. Becoming disenchanted with the legal profession, in 1848 he turned his remarkable talents to journalism and became a controversial and outspoken newspaper editor.



A youthful William Walker
c.1841

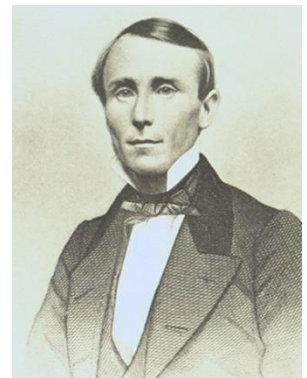
Following the death in April 1849 of his fiancée, Ellen Galt Martin, the only woman he ever loved apart from his mother, the desolate and bitter Walker went to California, arriving there in June of 1850. It was from San Francisco that he embarked on his filibustering career.

* *Code Napoléon* is the name given to the civil, as distinguished from the criminal, law of France. In 1800 Napoleon Bonaparte appointed a commission of jurists to combine all French civil laws into one code. That same year, after Napoleon became emperor of France, the code became known as *Code Napoléon*. It influenced law in Europe, South America, the State of Louisiana and the province of Quebec.

Encyclopædia Britannica provides a brief outline of Walker's freebooting activities in Nicaragua and ultimate demise:

William Walker (b. May 8, 1824, Nashville, Tennessee, d. Sept. 12, 1860, Trujillo, Honduras), adventurer, filibuster, and revolutionary leader who succeeded in making himself president of Nicaragua (1856–57).

In 1850 he migrated to California, where his interest in a colonization scheme in Lower California developed into filibustering plans. On Oct. 15, 1853, he sailed from San Francisco with a small force. After landing at La Paz, he proclaimed Lower California and Sonora an independent republic. Lack of supplies and Mexican resistance forced him back to the United States in May 1854. Exactly a year later he sailed again, this time to Nicaragua at the invitation of a revolutionary faction. By the end of 1855 his military successes made him a virtual master of Nicaragua, which was then a key transport link between Atlantic and Pacific Ocean shipping.



William Walker
1824–1860

When Walker arrived in Nicaragua, Cornelius K. Garrison and Charles Morgan, officers of Cornelius Vanderbilt's Accessory Transit Company, gave Walker financial assistance in a plot to gain control of the company. In return Walker seized the company's property on the pretext of a charter violation and turned it over to Garrison and Morgan.

Walker became president of Nicaragua on July 12, 1856, and maintained himself against a coalition of Central American states until May 1, 1857. In order to avoid capture, he surrendered to the United States Navy and returned to the United States.

In November he led another foray but was arrested and returned to the United States as a prisoner on parole. On his third descent on Central America (1860), he landed in Honduras, where he was taken prisoner by the British Navy. He was then turned over to Honduras authorities, who executed him.

Filibuster

The word filibuster is derived from the Spanish *filibustero* (freebooting) and originally described piratical 16th-century privateers; it came into English usage to designate any irregular military adventurer, such as the Americans who took part in Latin-American insurrections in the 1850s. Filibustering in U.S. history refers to the attempt to take over countries at peace with the United States via privately financed military expeditions.

Webster's Dictionary provides an alternative derivative of *filibuster* ascribing its source to the Dutch word *vrijbuit* (*vrij*, free; *buit*, booty).

The following is a chronological account of William Walker's forays into Central America.

First Excursion

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Departed San Francisco with 58 soldiers of fortune | 04 May 1855 |
| Arrived Realejo, Nicaragua | 16 June 1855 |
| Inaugurated as President in Granada | 12 July 1856 |
| <i>William H. Saunders died at San Juan del Sur</i> | 11 Feb 1857 |

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Surrenders to Captain Davis of the US <i>St. Mary's</i> under protection of American Flag | 01 May 1857 |
| Arrives New Orleans | 27 May 1857 |
| Second Excursion | |
| Departed New Orleans | 14 Nov 1857 |
| Arrived Nicaragua | 23 Nov 1857 |
| Surrenders to Hiram Paulding of the US Frigate <i>Wabash</i> | 12 Dec 1857 |
| Tried and Acquitted | June 1859 |
| Third & Final Excursion | |
| Departed Mobile | June 1860 |
| Arrived Honduras | 05 Aug 1860 |
| Surrenders to British | 03 Sep 1860 |
| Handed over to Hondurans and Executed | 12 Sep 1860 |

We don't know when, how, why or even if Dr. William H. Saunders became involved in Walker's Central American activities. The only thing we have to go on is his death notice stating he was the surgeon on the *Granada*, the schooner commandeered by Walker in July 1856, some seven months prior to William Saunders's death from dysentery. The following extracts provide details of how the schooner *Granada* came into the hands of Walker.

Freebooters must Die by Frederick Rosengarten, p. 147:

In July 1856 a Costa Rican schooner, the *San José* was seized at San Juan del Sur ... and re-christened the *Granada*.

Filibusters and Financiers by William O. Scroggs, p. 245:

... Walker seized a Costa Rican schooner, the *San José*, which had entered the harbour of San Juan del Sur flying the American flag. The grounds for the seizure were that the vessel was without papers or a lawful flag. A "court of admiralty" was created to pass upon the case, and the vessel was adjudged condemned and forfeited to the government. She was equipped with two six-pound guns, rechristened the *Granada*, and placed under the command of Lieutenant Callender Irvine Fayssoux. Men were detailed from the different companies to man the vessel, and Nicaragua was now possessed of a navy.

The owner of the schooner was a well-to-do Nicaraguan merchant named Mariano Salazar, a Democrat [one of the two warring factions in Nicaragua] and one of Walker's staunchest supporters.

Salazar had made an American, Gilbert Morton, half owner of the schooner, supposing that this would give him the right to fly the United States flag, and under its protection he had planned to conduct a profitable trade along the west coast during the hostilities in Nicaragua. When Walker spoiled these plans Salazar became his dearest foe!

ibid, p. 247:

Monday, July 21, 1856. At three P.M. the schooner *Granada*, [under] Lieut. Fayssoux, sailed from San Juan del Sur – being the first vessel that ever went to sea as a government vessel – the commencement of the Nicaraguan navy.

The Filibuster: The Career of William Walker by Laurence Greene, p. 215:

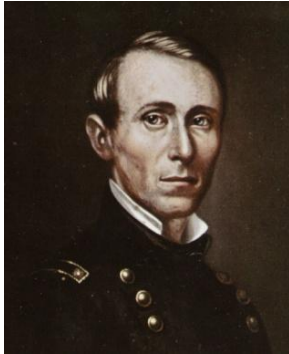
...The San Jose was armed with two six-pound guns, rechristened the *Granada*, **manned with those soldiers who had some experience at sea** and placed under the command of Lieutenant Callender Irvine Fayssoux.

The *San José* was re-named the *Granada* and fitted out as a man-of-war under the command of Lieut. Callender Irvine Fayssoux whose orders were to sail northward from San Juan and cruise about the Gulf of Fonseca.

Walker would have maintained a detailed journal of his time in Central America which must have been used when writing his book *The War in Nicaragua* as he meticulously recounts the dates and times of even the most trivial events. He also details the deaths and injuries which befell the men under his command. His vessel the *Granada* was a vital asset and the death during hostilities of the ship's surgeon would have been an important event, one which Walker would surely have not omitted from his journal or his book.



Callender Irvine Fayssoux
1820–1897
Captain of the "Granada"



General William Walker
President of Nicaragua

There is no mention of Dr. William H. Saunders in any book or literature about Walker from the time of the capture of the *San José* in July 1856 to the alleged date of Saunders's death on 12 February 1857. During this seven month period there were a number of other sailing vessels which came into contact with the *Granada* in and around San Juan del Sur.

Given the total absence of any mention of William Saunders in any of the books and literature written about William Walker one has to consider the possibility that Saunders's death notice in the *Daily National Intelligencer* of 31 March 1857 is incorrect and that he was the surgeon on one of the other vessels around San Juan del Sur at the time.

About the 23rd November 1856 the *Granada* vanquished another Costa Rican vessel, the *Once de Abril*. The clerk aboard the *Granada* wrote an account of the battle wherein he listed the crew on board – no mention of Saunders or a ship's surgeon for that matter.

On the 6th February 1857 the United States sloop-of-war *St Mary's*, commanded by Charles Henry Davis cast anchor in the port of San Juan del Sur. Walker was near the end of his short reign as President of Nicaragua. His troops were in bad shape suffering from all kinds of deprivations, including cholera. There were many sick and dying. Possibly Saunders was amongst those who succumbed.

16 October 1854

Oscar Wilde was born in Dublin, Republic of Ireland. Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde was a playwright, novelist, essayist and poet and became one of London's most popular playwrights in the early 1890s. Wilde was a homosexual and in 1895 was arrested and tried for gross indecency with men. His lover at the time was Lord Alfred Douglas. He was imprisoned for two years' hard labour. Upon his release he left for France, never to return to Ireland or Britain. He died destitute on 30 November 1900 in Paris at the age of 46.



Oscar Wilde
1854–1900

Going West

In the late 1840s and 1850s hundreds of thousands of people were lured to California in the hope of making their fortune in the newly-discovered goldfields near Sacramento. Gold was not the only attraction though. There were those who saw undeveloped California as a land of opportunity, a place to make a fresh start in life.

The Transcontinental Railroad would not be completed until 1869. Many of the would-be prospectors and settlers travelled overland by stagecoach which was arduous and carried the constant threat of being attacked by hostile Indians. Others elected to go by sea. In those days there were three sea routes to California:

- By sailing vessel around the Horn of South America. This was a long and dangerous journey of several months and passengers aboard clippers had to endure some very rough seas.

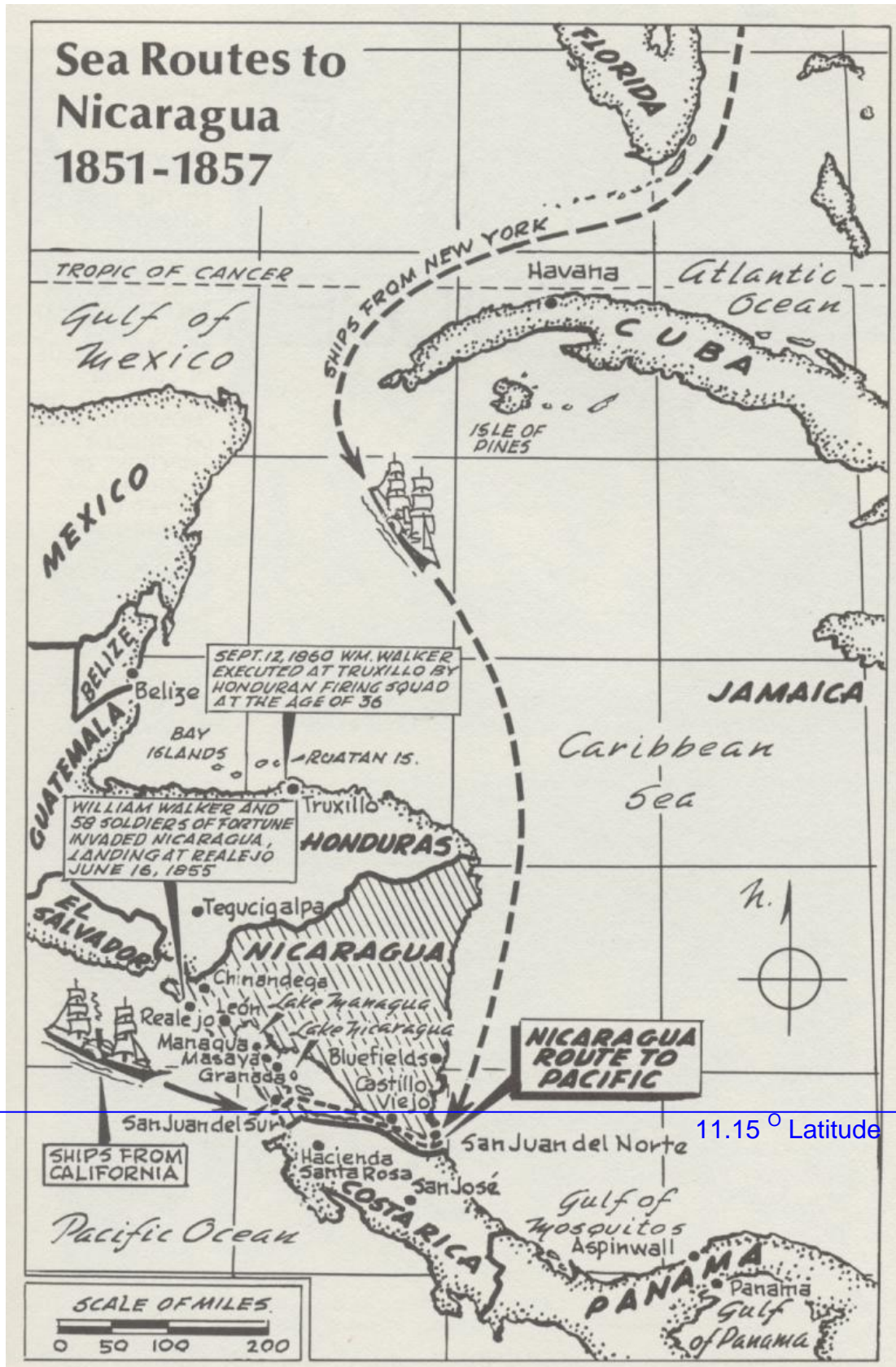
- Across the Panama Isthmus. During the California gold rush that began in 1849, the Isthmus of Panama became an important route between the eastern United States and California. Many prospectors sailed from Atlantic Coast ports to Panama, crossed the Isthmus by boat, on mules and on foot, and then took another ship for California.

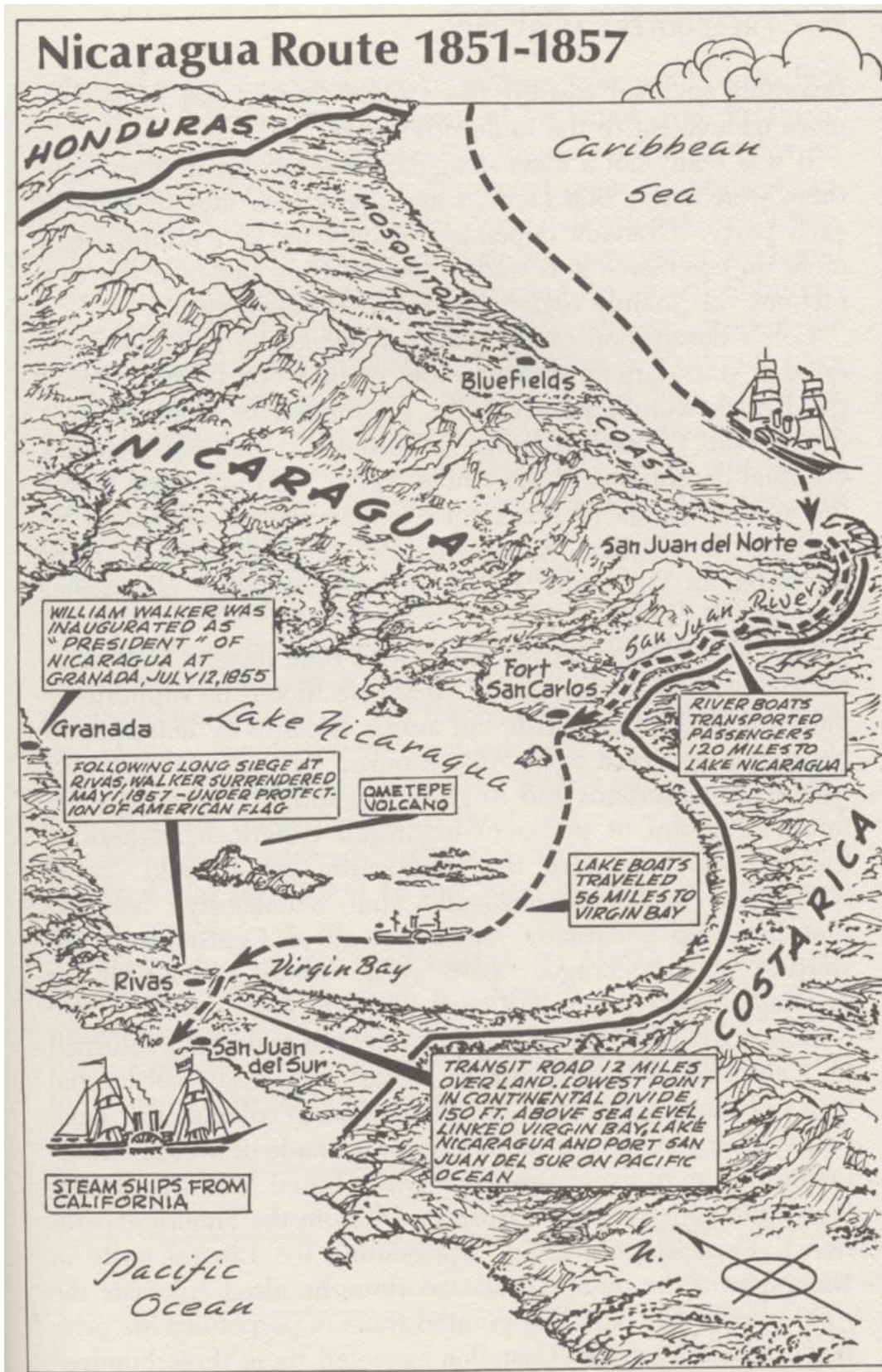
In 1850, Colombia permitted a group of business executives from New York City to build a railroad across the isthmus. The line was completed in 1855. It linked Colon on the Atlantic side and Panama City on the Pacific side.

- The shortest route was to sail to Nicaragua and travel across land and lake to the west coast. By a charter from the Government of Nicaragua, the right to transport passengers across this isthmus was controlled by the *Accessory Transit Company*, of which the first Cornelius Vanderbilt was president. His company owned a line of ocean steamers both on the Pacific side and on the Atlantic side. Passengers *en route* from New York to the gold-fields were landed by these latter steamers at Greytown (San Juan del Norte) on the west coast of Nicaragua, and sent by boats of light draught up the San Juan River to Lake Nicaragua. There they were met by larger lake steamers and conveyed across the lake to Virgin Bay. From that point, in carriages and on mule back, they were carried twelve miles overland to the port of San Juan del Sur on the Pacific Coast, where they boarded the company's steamers to San Francisco.

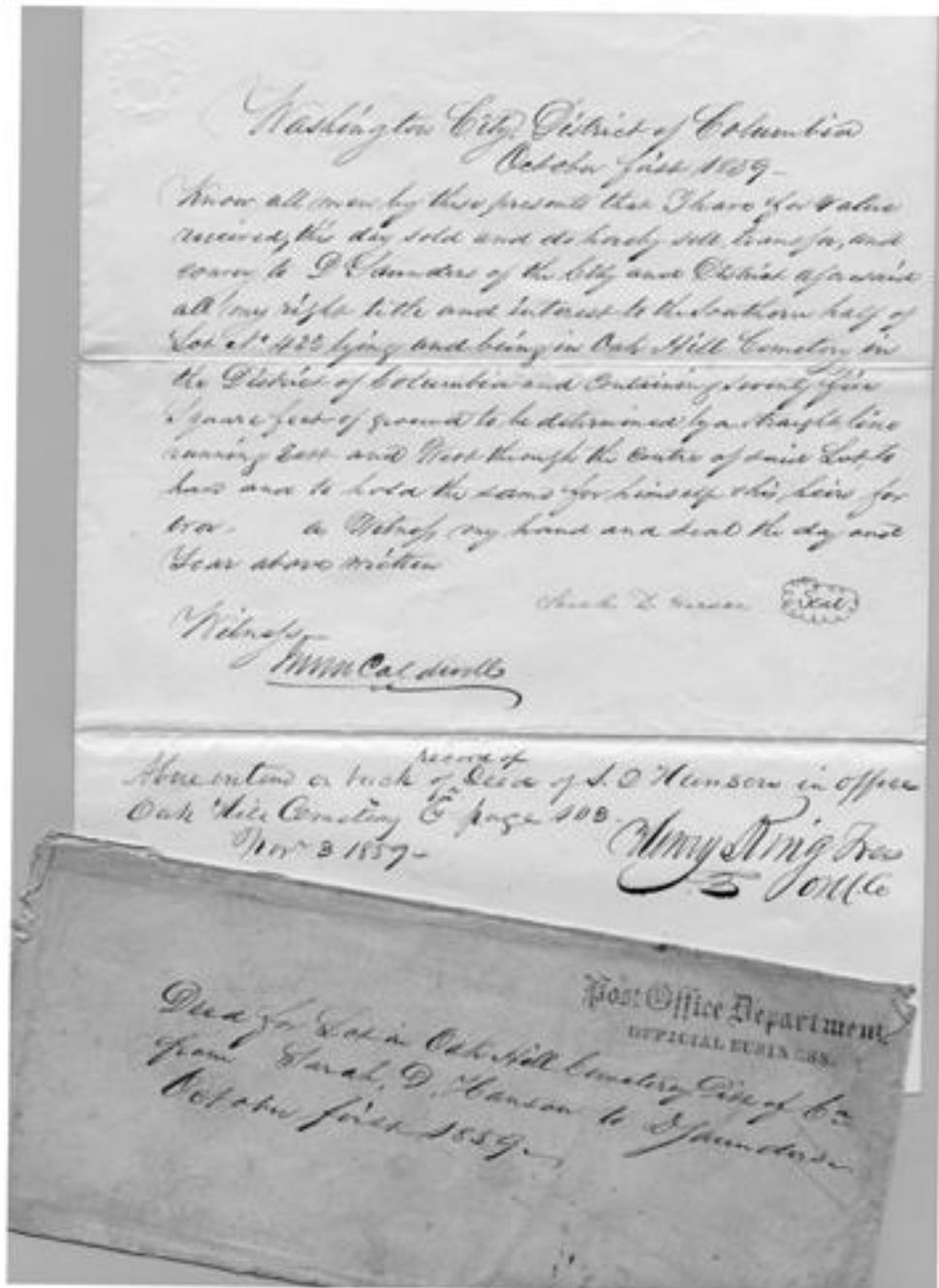
During the year of Walker's occupation the number of passengers crossing Nicaragua was an average of about two thousand a month.







William⁷ Hartshorne Saunders was from a good family, a graduate of the prestigious University of Pennsylvania medical school and an active and respected member of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia. Could it be that he went to Central America for the best of intentions—to provide medical care and assistance to a needy community? There were cholera plagues there between 1855 and 1860 and doctors would have been much in demand. If this was the case, his altruism must have overshadowed his family concerns as well as his own safety. Perhaps he ended up in the wrong place at the wrong time and found himself in the midst of William Walker's band of filibusters.



Deed for Lot No. 432 in Oak Hill Cemetery, Washington DC
purchased by David Saunders for the interment of his son
Dr. William Hartshorne Saunders



**TO THE MEMORY
of
Dr. William H.
SAUNDERS
ELDEST SON OF
David and Hannah
T. SAUNDERS
of Washington, D.C.
November 1, 1859**

*The monument in memory of
Dr William Hartshorne Saunders
Lot 432 in Oak Hill Cemetery, Washington DC*

Summary**WILLIAM⁷ HARTSHORNE SAUNDERS 1819–1857**

| | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---|
| 1819 | 28 Jun | Born | Milford, Ohio, USA. The first child of David Saunders and his wife Hannah Travilla (née Douglass). |
| by 1821 | | Aged 2 | Family had moved to Cincinnati, Ohio. |
| 1821 | 03 Dec | Aged 2 | Brother John ⁷ Henry born. |
| by 1824 | | Aged 5 | Family had moved to Washington DC. |
| 1825 | 26 Feb | Aged 6 | Uncle Peter ⁶ Saunders died. |
| 1829 | 10 Aug | Aged 10 | Brother James ⁷ Douglass born. |
| 1832 | 27 Feb | Aged 13 | Philip Wanton died in Alexandria. |
| 1846 | 26 Nov | Aged 25 | Grandmother Mary Saunders Wanton died. |
| 1848 | | Aged 29 | Graduated from University of Pennsylvania with a degree in medicine. |
| 1848 | 06 Jun | Aged 29 | Admitted as member of the Medical Society of Washington DC. In numerical sequence he was #86. |
| 1850 | | Aged 31 | Washington City directories note him as living with younger brother John ⁷ Henry, Attorney at Law, Cnr. 4½ West and LA Ave. |
| 1850 | 20 Jun | Aged 31 | Brother John ⁷ Henry arrives in California via Panama. |
| 1850 | 15 July | Aged 31 | Census of 15 July 1850 records him living in St Louis, Missouri. Entry reads: <i>Wm. H. Saunders, MD, born Ohio</i> . This might explain the possible real estate holdings in Missouri mentioned in the Will of his father David ⁶ Saunders (→ See Chapter 4). |
| 24 Dec | 1851 | Aged 32 | Married Hannah S. Bradley in Washington, DC. |
| 1852 to | 1853 | Aged 33 | He was recording secretary of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia. |
| 1853 | 11 Jan | Aged 34 | He was on Committee of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia to amend charter of the Society. |
| 1854 | January | Aged 34 | Said to have left district. |

Summary of William⁷ Hartshorne Saunders (1819–1857) continued

| | | | |
|------|-------------|---------|--|
| 1854 | 14 June | Aged 35 | Daughter Lucy ⁸ Maude born. |
| 1855 | | Aged 36 | A person named W. H. Saunders arrived in San Francisco accompanied by a lady who is described as a family member. (This may or may not be our Dr. W.H. Saunders). |
| 1855 | | Aged 36 | Brother James ⁷ Douglass, aged 26, arrives in California. |
| 1857 | 11 February | Aged 37 | Died of dysentery at San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua. |
| 1857 | 31 March | | Death notice placed in the Washington DC <i>Daily National Intelligencer</i> . |
| 1859 | 01 Oct | | Cemetery plot purchased at Oak Hill Cemetery by his father, David ⁶ Saunders. |
| 1859 | 01 Nov | | Recorded by OHC as interred in cemetery plot. However, the epitaph on his tombstone reads more like a memorial than to the burial of a loved son. |
| 1863 | | | Parents David ⁶ and Hannah Saunders relocate to California travelling by clipper around the Horn of South America. |



23 May 1868

Kit Carson died. Born Christopher Houston Carson on 24 December 1809, he was an American frontiersman, mountain man, wilderness guide, Indian agent and U.S. Army officer during the Civil War. Carson became a frontier legend in his own lifetime due largely from the accounts of his expeditions by John C. Fremont who had hired him as a guide. Exaggerated versions of his exploits were the subject of "dime novels". He was married three times and had ten children. Carson died of an *aortic aneurysm* at Fort Lyon, Colorado.



Kit Carson
1809–1868