

Abraham Reece Bigger

Abraham Reece ⁱBigger was born July 30th 1841 to James Bigger and Kathrynne Reece in Pennsylvania. His father was born in Ireland, and his mother in Pennsylvania. ¹

Abraham married Mary Stackhouse. ² Mary was born June 16th 1843 to Abraham Stackhouse and Rebecca Kinney in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. ³

- *See Stackhouse Family Research Paper.*

Abraham served in the Civil War with Company I of the 15th Pennsylvania Regiment. He was a farmer and lived with his family in Jordon Township, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania.

Mary was 41 years old when she died May 6th 1885. She was laid to rest in the Salem Cemetery, Unityville, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. FAG#: 45101069 ⁱⁱ

Abraham was 71 years old when he died November 27th 1912 in Jordon Township, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. He was laid to rest in the Salem Cemetery Unityville, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. His son General G. Bigger of Rural Delivery #2 Unityville was the informant on Abraham's death certificate. ⁴ FAG#: 45101063 ⁱⁱⁱ

Abraham and Mary Bigger children included.

- i. Emma J. Bigger was born in 1870
- ii. Howard W. Bigger was born in 1871
- iii. Della M. Bigger was born in 1874
- iv. Henry W. Bigger (1875-1935). He married Rachel Emma Smith
- v. George G. Bigger was born in 1877. General George
- vi. Minnie Bigger was born in 1879

ⁱ The name Reece is spelled as it was for his mother's name on Abraham's death certificate.

ⁱⁱ Find-A-Grave, FAG, is a web site for cemetery memorials managed by Ancestry, Find-A-Grave, 1300 West Traverse Parkway, Lehi, Utah, 84043.

ⁱⁱⁱ Find-A-Grave, FAG, is a web site for cemetery memorials managed by Ancestry, Find-A-Grave, 1300 West Traverse Parkway, Lehi, Utah, 84043.

Henry Ward Bigger (1875-1935)

Henry Ward Bigger was born February 24th 1875 ⁵ to Abraham Bigger and Mary Stackhouse in Lewis Township, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. Both of his parents were born in Pennsylvania. ⁶

Henry was previously married. He then married Emma Rachel ⁷ Smith in 1897, who went by the name Emma. The family lived in Unityville, Jordon Township, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania.⁸ Henry had a medium build, black hair, and brown eyes. ⁹

- Henry's WWI draft card identifies his wife's name as Rachel Emma, but her son Leonard's WWI draft card identified his nearest relative as mother, Emma Rachel. All other records identify her name as Emma, or Emma R.
- Family Oral History: Judy Ross; Emma's middle name was Rachel. I must look at my info from mom. Rachel Smith-Kelly-Bigger was widowed while pregnant with my grandfather Leonard.

Emma Rachel Smith was born August 29th 1870 to William Smith and Sarah Jane Long in Pine Top, Columbia County, Pennsylvania. William was born in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, and Jane was born in Jordon Township, Lycoming County. ¹⁰ *See Smith and Long Research Papers.*

In 1900 the family lived next door to Emma's mother Sarah Smith and William Kelley in Jordon Township, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. Then in 1910 Henry and Emma were living with 72-year-old William Kelley and 64-year-old Sarah J. Smith. Sarah indicated she had two children, but only one was still living. I believe this is Emma's mother, Emma and Henry were still living near her relatives, and a daughter, 20-year-old Lizzie Kelley, was living with them.

- Lizzie Kelley may be the daughter of Emma, who may have been previously married

When Henry signed up for the WWI draft in 1918, the family still lived in Unityville where Henry worked as a carpenter for Edward Neufor in Muncy Valley, Sullivan County, Pennsylvania

By 1920s the family moved to 459 Academy Street in Hughsville ^{iv} Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. ¹¹

^{iv} Hughsville is about 14 miles west of Unityville in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania.

Emma was 59 years old when she died from cerebral sclerosis and hemorrhaging on September 14th 1929 in Hughesville, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. She was laid to rest at the Salem Cemetery, Unityville, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. Her husband Henry was the informant on her death certificate. ¹² FAG#: 137603647 ^v

Henry was 60 years old when he died October 6th 1935 from chronic interstitial hepatitis. He was laid to rest at the Salem Cemetery, Unityville, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. His son Grant Bigger of Unityville was the informant on Henry's death certificate. ¹³ FAG#: 133673610 ^{vi}

Henry and Emma Bigger children included. In the 1900 census record, Emma indicated she had five children, but only four were still living. In 1910 Emma indicated she had nine children, but only seven were still living. In 1900 Emma indicated she was married to Henry for three years, 1897.

- i. Lizzie Kelley was born in 1890
- ii. Unknown Kelley child was born, and died prior to 1900
- iii. Unknown Kelley child was born, and was living in 1900.
- iv. Leonard Kelly (1897-1973). He married Marie DeJoice.
- v. Wilbur Norman Bigger was born January 29th 1899. He married Nellie Poust, lived at R.D.#3 Muncy, Clinton Township, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania where he worked as a cabinet maker. Wilbur was 59 years old when he died from coronary sclerosis on August 29th 1958 in Clinton Township, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. He was laid to rest at the Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Plot 102H, Hughesville, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. His wife, Nellie, was the informant on his death certificate. ¹⁴ FAG#: 90431793 ^{vii}
- vi. Gratz Bigger was born in 1901.
- vii. Mary A. Bigger was born April 3rd 1902. She married Cleon C. Worthington.

^v Find-A-Grave, FAG, is a web site for cemetery memorials managed by Ancestry, Find-A-Grave, 1300 West Traverse Parkway, Lehi, Utah, 84043.

^{vi} Find-A-Grave, FAG, is a web site for cemetery memorials managed by Ancestry, Find-A-Grave, 1300 West Traverse Parkway, Lehi, Utah, 84043.

^{vii} Find-A-Grave, FAG, is a web site for cemetery memorials managed by Ancestry, Find-A-Grave, 1300 West Traverse Parkway, Lehi, Utah, 84043.

Mary was 32 years old when she died December 24th 1934 at the Williamsport Hospital of burns on her face, chest, and arms from an accidental explosion at her home in Hepburnville, Hepburn Township, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania.

Mary was laid to rest in the Unityville Cemetery. Her husband, Cleon C. Worthington was the informant on her death certificate. ¹⁵ FAG#:45102020 ^{viii}

- viii. Harold George Bigger was born April 26th 1908 in Jordan Township, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. ¹⁶He was 66 years old when he died November 29th 1974. He was laid to rest at the Salem Cemetery, Unityville, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. FAG#:45101066 ^{ix}
- ix. Chester Vernon Bigger was born October 13th 1909 in Unityville, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. He was 86 year sold when he died November 19th 1995 in Montoursville, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. Chester was laid to rest at the Moreland Lutheran Cemetery, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. FAG#:105856982 ^x

Leonard Kelly (1897-1973)

Leonard Kelly was born October 13th 1897 to Mr. Kelley and Emma Rachel Smith Kelly. Leonard had a medium build, brown hair and eyes. ¹⁷ Leonard's full name went by Leonard Kelley Bigger.

- Family Oral History: Judy Ross; Rachel gave my grandfather the middle name Kelly to honor his bio father.
- Family Oral History: Judy Ross; my grandfather ran away from home at a fairly young age. He went to Baltimore for a while before returning to PA. My mom mentioned that he was hospitalized while in Baltimore. I also know my grandfather had a lot of siblings as was usual in those days. I only knew his brother Chester Bigger and heard them mention a sister Lizzie.
- *See Smith and Kelly Research Papers*

^{viii} Find-A-Grave, FAG, is a web site for cemetery memorials managed by Ancestry, Find-A-Grave, 1300 West Traverse Parkway, Lehi, Utah, 84043.

^{ix} Find-A-Grave, FAG, is a web site for cemetery memorials managed by Ancestry, Find-A-Grave, 1300 West Traverse Parkway, Lehi, Utah, 84043.

^x Find-A-Grave, FAG, is a web site for cemetery memorials managed by Ancestry, Find-A-Grave, 1300 West Traverse Parkway, Lehi, Utah, 84043.

When Leonard signed up for the WWI draft in 1918, he lived Unityville, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. He worked as a farm hand for G. W. Gardner in Millville, Columbia County, Pennsylvania. He identified his mother, Emma Rachel Bigger of Unityville as his nearest relative. ¹⁸

On August 27th 1929 32-year-old Leonard Kelly Bigger married 28-year-old Marie Dejoice in Ithaca, New York. When he married, Leonard lived at 332 Maple Avenue in Scranton, Pennsylvania. He was working as a laborer in Unityville, Pennsylvania. ¹⁹

- Family Oral History: Judy Ross; Leonard Kelly Bigger married Marie DeJoice Maietta in August 1928, in Ithaca, New York by a Justice of the Peace. Emily Jane was Bigger (my mother) was born October 24, 1929, at the Williamsport Hospital. Leonard and Marie lived at Courson Court in Williamsport. Leonard worked for the city and Marie worked for the Joseph Rhodes family on "Millionaires Row" where she also took care of Mr. Rhode's mother who was 102 years old
- Family Oral History: Judy Ross; My maternal grandmother was named Mary Dejoice, when she was born, however, when the neighbor took her to church for her christening (Lucy couldn't do it at the time) she spoke in broken English and Mary sounded like Marie. My grandmother was known by everyone as Marie for the rest of her life. I noticed in one of my websites they listed my grandmother's date of death in 1996 which is incorrect. She was born March 10, 1902 (don't know the town, it was PA though) and died in CampHill in December 1992.

At the time of her marriage, Marie was doing housework in DuBois, Pennsylvania. ²⁰

- *See DeJoice Family Research Paper*
- The marriage application indicated Marie's parents' names as Nicolas DeJoice and Lucy Bonelle. ²¹

Leonard K. Bigger, 75, of Union Avenue, died at 6:15 pm Tuesday, July 31st 1973, in the Divine Providence Hospital, where he was admitted July 8th as a medical patient. He was a member of Boniface Catholic Church. ²²

- Surviving are his wife, the former Marie DeJoice; two sons, Thomas A., of Renovo, and Edward T., of Reading; a daughter, Mrs. Donald Ross, of Camp Hill; two brothers, Harold, of Montoursville, and Chester, of Muncy; and four grandchildren.

Leonard's funeral was held in the Providence Hospital chapel with burial in Resurrection Cemetery, Coraopolis, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. FAG#:206142696 ^{xi}

Leonard and Marie Bigger's children included.

- i. Emilie Jayne Bigger was born in 1931 in Williamsport, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. She attended Williamsport High School, where she graduated in 1947. Emilie married Donald I. Ross.

- *See Ross Family Research Paper*

^{xi} Find-A-Grave, FAG, is a web site for cemetery memorials managed by Ancestry, Find-A-Grave, 1300 West Traverse Parkway, Lehi, Utah, 84043.

End Notes

¹ Abraham R. Stackhouse Name, Birth Date, Place of Birth, and Parent's Names and Their Places of Birth: The information came from Abraham's Pennsylvania Death Certificate #: 103374, Pennsylvania, Death Certificates, 1906-1944 and 1906-1963; Series 11.90 (1,905 cartons); Records of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Record Group 11; Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 300 North Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120.

² Mary Stackhouse Name and Place of Birth: The information came from Henry W. Bigger Pennsylvania Death Certificate #:90497, Pennsylvania, Death Certificates, 1906-1944 and 1906-1963; Series 11.90 (1,905 cartons); Records of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Record Group 11; Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 300 North Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120.

³ Mary Stackhouse Name and Birth Date, and Parent's Names: The information came from her grave site at the Salem Cemetery, Unityville, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania.

⁴ Abraham Reese Bigger Name, Occupation, Residence, Date of Death, Place of Death, and Burial: The information came from his Pennsylvania Death Certificate #: 103374, Pennsylvania, Death Certificates, 1906-1944 and 1906-1963; Series 11.90 (1,905 cartons); Records of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Record Group 11; Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 300 North Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120.

⁵ Henry Ward Bigger Name and Date of Birth: The name came from Henry Ward Bigger WW I draft card, United States Selective Service System; World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918, National Archives and Records Administration, M1509, 4,582 rolls; National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Washington, DC 20408-0001.

⁶ Henry Ward Bigger Name, Birth Date, Place of Birth, and Parent's Names: The information came from his Pennsylvania Death Certificate #:90497, Pennsylvania, Death Certificates, 1906-1944 and 1906-1963; Series 11.90 (1,905 cartons); Records of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Record Group 11; Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 300 North Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120.

⁷ Rachel Emma Smith Name: The name came from Henry Ward Bigger WW I draft card, United States Selective Service System; World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918, National Archives and Records Administration, M1509, 4,582 rolls; National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Washington, DC 20408-0001.

⁸ Henry Ward Bigger Name, Marriage to Emma Smith, and Residence: The information came from his Pennsylvania Death Certificate #:90497, Pennsylvania, Death Certificates, 1906-1944 and 1906-1963; Series 11.90 (1,905 cartons); Records of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Record Group 11; Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 300 North Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120.

⁹ Henry Ward Bigger Name and Physical Features: The name came from Henry Ward Bigger WW I draft card, United States Selective Service System; World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918, National Archives and Records Administration, M1509, 4,582 rolls; National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Washington, DC 20408-0001.

¹⁰ Emma Smith Name, Birth Date, Place of Birth, and Parent's Names and Their Places of Birth: The information came from her Pennsylvania Death Certificate #:93332, Pennsylvania, Death Certificates, 1906-1944 and 1906-1963; Series 11.90 (1,905 cartons); Records of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Record Group 11; Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 300 North Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120.

¹¹ Henry and Emma Bigger 1920s Residence: The information came from Emma's Pennsylvania Death Certificate #:93332, Pennsylvania, Death Certificates, 1906-1944 and 1906-1963; Series 11.90 (1,905 cartons); Records of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Record Group 11; Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 300 North Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120.

¹² Emma Bigger Name, Date of Death, Place of Death, and Burial: The information came from her Pennsylvania Death Certificate #:93332, Pennsylvania, Death Certificates, 1906-1944 and 1906-1963; Series 11.90 (1,905 cartons); Records of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Record Group 11; Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 300 North Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120.

¹³ Henry Ward Bigger Name, Date of Death, Place of Death, and Burial: The information came from his Pennsylvania Death Certificate #:90497, Pennsylvania, Death Certificates, 1906-1944 and 1906-1963; Series 11.90 (1,905 cartons); Records of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Record Group 11; Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 300 North Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120.

¹⁴ Wilbur Norman Bigger Name, Birth Date, Place of Birth, Parent's Names, Occupation, Wife's Name, Residence, Date of Death, Place of Death, and Burial: The information came from his Pennsylvania Death Certificate #:75417, Pennsylvania, Death Certificates, 1906-1944 and 1906-1963; Series 11.90 (1,905 cartons); Records of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Record Group 11; Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 300 North Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120.

¹⁵ Mary A. Bigger Name, Birth Date, Place of Birth, Parent's Names, Occupation, Residence, Date of Death, Place of Death, and Burial: The information came from her Pennsylvania Death Certificate #: 113815, Pennsylvania, Death Certificates, 1906-1944 and 1906-1963; Series 11.90 (1,905 cartons); Records of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Record Group 11; Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 300 North Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120.

¹⁶ Harold George Bigger Name, Date of Birth, Place of Birth, and Parents Names: The information came from the Harold George Bigger Birth Registration#: 272, Pennsylvania Birth Certificates, 1906–1910. Series 11.89 (50 cartons, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Record Group 11, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 300 North Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120.

¹⁷ Leonard Kelly Bigger Name, Birth Date, Mother's Name, and Physical Features: The information came from his United States Selective Service System; World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918, National Archives and Records Administration, M1509, 4,582 rolls; National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Washington, DC 20408-0001.

¹⁸ Leonard Kelly Bigger Name and 1918 Residence and Occupation: The information came from his United States Selective Service System; World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918, National Archives and Records Administration, M1509, 4,582 rolls; National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Washington, DC 20408-0001.

¹⁹ Leonard Kelly Bigger Name, Parent's Name, 1929 Occupation, Residence, and Marriage: The information came from her Marriage Certificate Number: 28197, New York State Marriage Index, New York State Department of Health, Albany, NY..

²⁰ Marie DeJoice Name, Date of Birth, Parent's Name, 1929 Occupation, Residence, and Marriage: The information came from her Marriage Certificate Number: 28197, New York State Marriage Index, New York State Department of Health, Albany, NY.

²¹ Marie Bigger Name: The information came from her son's, Leonard Bigger, WW II draft card, Draft Registration Cards for Pennsylvania, 10/16/1940 - 03/31/1947; Record Group: Records of the Selective Service System, 147; Box: 1762, National Personnel Records Center, 1 Archives Drive, St. Louis, MO 63138.

²² Leonard K. Bigger Name, Wife's Maiden Name, Birth Date, Place of Birth, Surviving Relatives, Date of Death, and Burial: The information came from the Leonard K. Bigger obituary, Published in the Williamsport Sun-Gazette on August 1, 1973; Ancestry, Newspapers.com, 1300 West Traverse Parkway, Lehi, Utah, 84043.