

The Search of Klock Ryder

The Times Record
Troy, New York
Thursday, October 11, 1958

Klock W. Ryder, Retired Actor Dies at Residence

Klock W. Ryder of 534 2nd Ave., a retired actor of radio and stage and a commercial photographer, died at his residence yesterday after a lengthy illness.

Mr. Ryder was born in Coldwater, Mich., and spent many years in Detroit and Chicago acting on Stage, in radio plays and television. He also resided and acted in New York City and had a character part in "State of the Union." He was also interested in commercial photography in the midwest. He had resided in Troy for three years.

He is survived by his wife, the former Marguerite Dow. The funeral will be Saturday at Wolcott and interment will be in Glenside Cemetery there.

I found the above obituary of Klock W. Ryder in the Times Record, of Troy, New York. I did not have a Klock Ryder on my family tree. Was this his stage name? Not a lot of information from the obituary to go on. No birth date, names of parents just a name and death date. The Sherman O. Klock Genealogy had a Gardner Ryder who married Nancy A. Klock and they lived in Coldwater, Michigan, could this be the parents of Klock Ryder?

According to 1860 Census Records, Gardner Ryder resided in Lyme, Jefferson, New York. In 1870 Census he is found living in Coldwater Ward 3, Branch County, Michigan, age 29, living in a boarding house, listed as a Stationer. In 1880 we find him listed as a Book Dealer and married to Nancy A. Ryder (Klock). They are listed with two children. Louisa Rider (7) and an Unnamed Rider 1 month old. No census in 1890 so we go to the 1900 Census. In this Coldwater, Branch, Michigan census, Gardner (59) and Nancy (53) are listed with Joseph E. Ryder who is 20 and Gardner W. Ryder, age 15. On my tree I had Louisa Marie Ryder as died in May 04, 1888, so she would not have been listed on the 1900 census. Nancy is listed on this census records as having three children, with 2 living. In the 1910 Coldwater census, Gardner is listed as 69. In this census it looks like Gardner is widowed. His son Walter G. Ryder 26 and Walters wife 25 Lillian S. is living with him. Still no Klock Ryder. Where is Joseph? He is living in Chicago with his wife, Celestia. World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 has Gardner Walter Ryder as born November 16, 1884. In the 1930 Census for Columbus, Franklin, Ohio we find Gardner W. Ryder, now 45, living with his wife Marguerite Ryder 48.

Census records were not much help to confirm that Klock Ryder was the son of Gardner and Nancy Klock Ryder. There was several Riders' living in Coldwater at that time. I could not find a Klock Ryder in any census and the census records for Gardner and Nancy Klock, did not list a Klock Ryder. A trip to Coldwater Library would be the only way to solve this mystery. David Renshaw in the Holbrook Heritage Room at the Branch District Library in Coldwater was a great help; we found a lot of information including the obituaries of Gardner and Nancy Ryder. GW Gardner was born Oct. 18, 1840 in New York and died July 22, 1912 in Coldwater, Michigan. He was loading furniture into a freight car and fell dead from a heart attack. He was 73 years of age. He had been a resident of Coldwater for several years and ran a book, stationary, and picture store. Later he engaged in upholstering furniture repair business. He married Nancy A. Klock, the daughter of Jeremiah Klock (Henry G., George I., Johannes, Han Henrich and Hendrick Klock) and Jane A. Dayan. Nancy was born January 01, 1846 and

died October 04, 1940 at the age of 94. Gardner went by the name of George, Gardner, Walter and G.W. Ryder. G.W. and Nancy had three children; Nina Lulu Ryder, Joseph E. Ryder and Gardner Walter Ryder. Nina was born April 18, 1873 and died at the age of 15. G.W., Nancy and Nina are buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in Coldwater.

Joseph married Celestia Anderson and Gardner married Estella Anderson. A small announcement in the Coldwater Courier on Sept. 2, 1904, page 3, "Walter Ryder and Estella Anderson went to Chicago Wednesday to join the Flora DeVoss Theatrical Co. #2. Mr. Ryder will act in the same role as last season, while Miss Anderson goes as a "character lady"." Several members of the Ryder family were in the Entertainment Business. From an article that was in the Coldwater Daily Reporter on Sept 23, 1908. "Ryders Busted" This article tells of how the Walter and Edward Ryder Stock Company started out from Coldwater with \$10.00, went broke. There were 14 members of this stock company. "The final blow came Saturday night when Walter Ryder lost a \$50.00 Bill, almost the entire receipts for a night's engagements at Montague, Mich. The company was driving to Muskegon and he was fondly looking at the money when it flitted away in the breeze and could not be found, although the company searched three hours for it."

The company disbanded after the lost but Walter claimed it was not the lost of the money that caused the company to break up, that they had decided to disband earlier because they had failed to draw many crowded houses. Walter then went to Chicago where he already had a good position. He would state another venture when the fall campaign was over.

From the articles in the Coldwater newspaper we can conclude that Klock Ryder was a stage name for Gardner Walter Ryder. His marriage to Estella Anderson ended in divorce and he later married Marguerite Dow. Joseph Ryder was born May 05, 1880 and died January 23, 1956 in Chicago, Ill. Celestia died in Troy, New York on November 28, 1971 at the age of 88. Both are buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in Coldwater. I still have a few more questions. Was Estella and Celestia sisters? To get answer to that questions will require another trip to Coldwater. While there I will see what I can find on Jacob G. Klock who was born in New York in 1821. He married Lucretia Klock born in 1823. They are also buried in Oak Grove Cemetery. I find no record of any children born to the Ryder Brothers. Below are newspaper clipping and obituaries.

Note: The series of Hermits Cave was first heard over WJR radio in Detroit, MI beginning about 1935. It was syndicated on disc. The old hermit was played over the years by John Kent, Charles Penman, Toby Grimmer, Klock Ryder and Mel Johnson. Most of the cast members belonged to "The Mummies," a Detroit radio acting group. Two particular voices, Paul Hughes and Rollon Parker, were known to millions who listened to The Green Hornet and The Lone Ranger.

OLD RESIDENT DIED WITHOUT WARNING

G. E. Ryder Expired While Loading Furniure in Freight Car.

Again death has invaded this community with startling sadness, this time claiming an oldtime resident and highly respected citizen. Gardner E. Ryder, who for years has been familiarly called George by his many friends, dropped down and expired instantly while at work just after 10 o'clock yesterday morning, July 22, 1912.

Mr. Ryder was assisting in loading some furniture which he had packed, and in company with the draymen was in a freight car, which was standing just east of Division street on the sidetrack. He suddenly threw up his hands and uttered an exclamation. Ruel Wilcox was close to him and saved him from falling to the floor. Death was apparently instantaneous and resulted from heart failure. Dr. W. H. Baldwin was summoned but could do nothing. The ambulance was summoned and the body removed to the Harris undertaking rooms, Corner Montague was notified but it was decided that no inquest was necessary.

Mr. Ryder was nearly 73 years of age, having been born in New York state October 16, 1840.

He has been a resident of Coldwater for a great many years, having conducted a book, stationery and picture store on Chicago street for a long period. In later years he engaged in the upholstering and furniture repairing business.

Mr. Ryder was a man who was very highly respected in the community. Though misfortune came to him, he was always genial and had a pleasant word for everybody.

Mr. Ryder has two sons, Ned, of Chicago, and Walter, who is supposed to be in New York city. The former arrived in Coldwater last evening. The funeral plans will be made today.

DEATH CLAIMS OLD RESIDENT

Mrs. Nancy Ann Ryder Dies Friday At Age Of 94 Years

Mrs. Nancy Ann Ryder, Coldwater nonagenarian and a resident of the city for about seven decades, died Friday at her home at 142 East Pearl street after an extended illness at the advanced age of 94 years.

Funeral rites will be conducted by the Rev. C. Arch Hopper, rector of St. Mark's Episcopal church, at 2 p. m. Monday in the chapel at Shattuck Funeral Home. Burial will be made in Oak Grove cemetery.

Mrs. Ryder was born Jan. 1, 1846, in Chaumont, N. Y., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jeremiah Clark, and came to Coldwater in 1870. Most of the remainder of her life was spent here. She was a member of St. Mark's church.

Two sons, Walter of Detroit, and Ned of Chicago, are the only survivors. Her husband, G. E. Ryder, died in 1912.

Note: The obituary of Nancy Ann Ryder has her maiden name as Clark. This is an error. Her maiden name was Klock.

Dave

RYDERS BUSTED

Show Started Here Stranded in Muskegon.

NED RYDER AT HOME

Declares that Reports Have Become Exaggerated.

Under date of Sept. 21 the Muskegon correspondent of the Free Press has the following article which will be of interest to Coldwater people from the fact that the Ryder Brothers are well known here, and that the company of players concerned met and organized in Coldwater and gave their first performances here:

"Starting out four weeks ago from Coldwater, Mich., with \$10, the Walter and Edward Ryder Stock Co. went broke in Muskegon today, and tonight the players are leaving. Behind them, in various Muskegon hotel and rooming houses, are trunks, grips and in some instances articles of jewelry.

"The stock company, fourteen members in the cast, ended a week's engagement at Muskegon last week, but failed to draw many crowded houses.

"The final blow came Saturday night when Mrs. Edward Ryder lost a \$50 bill, almost the entire receipts for a night's engagements at Montague, Mich. The company was driving to Muskegon and she was fondly looking at the money when it flitted away in the breeze and could not be found, although the company searched three hours for it. Today the company officially disbanded."

Ned Ryder and wife arrived in Coldwater last night, and this morning was seen in regard to the above. He admits freely that his company was up against four straight weeks of poor business, and that they were finally obliged to give up. However, he declares that the reports of property being attached are false, and says that the company paid their bills in full. In regard to the loss of the money, while it was a serious loss to his brother, Walter Ryder, who dropped it instead of Mrs. Ryder, it in no way influenced the closing of business, as that had been decided upon before he came to Coldwater on Saturday last.

Walter is now in Chicago, where he already has a good position, and the rest of the company are provided for. He will start another venture when the fall campaign is over.

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Walter Ryder and Estella Anderson went to Chicago Wednesday to join the Flexa DeVoss Theatrical Co., No. 2. Mr. Ryder will act in the same role as last season, while Miss Anderson goes as a "character lady."