

## **Albert Mack Sterling**

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**Death:** Borderbund Family tree lists date of death as 1909-1965.

**General:** Albert Mack Sterling

Research Notes of Lady Mary Hendrickson

21 Jan 2002

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As of today, January 20, 2002, I have taken the following research steps to locate the papers, and descendants of Albert Mack Sterling, in hope of discovering more about our personal Sterling and Stirling ancestries.

Jennifer Benedetto Beals, Librarian, Albany Institute of History & Art, benedettoJ@albanyinstitute.org

Jennifer, in an email, 1/17/2002: They do not have any papers, or related items, of anyone with the name, or similar name possibilities, of Albert Mack Sterling. I have since emailed her, asking if there are any holdings in their institute pertaining to the last name of Mack.

Albany County Historical Society (Association)

I wrote a letter, January 6, 2002, and Sarah Biggs called me, saying they do not have any such holdings, not only for Albert, but for anyone. They collect other types of information, apparently. Sarah is the person who suggested I contact Jennifer at Albany Institute of History & Art, above.

Albany County Historian - Albany County Office Building

I wrote a letter, January 6, 2002, and John Travis responded by email, saying Albert's papers are not in his holdings. He also checked with Albany City Vital Statistics, and they have no death record (which I don't recall asking about, but that is of no concern). He gave me names of Albert and Mary Sterling in Green Island, Albany County, New York, a long with a phone number, and I will be calling them to see if this Albert is possibly a descendant of our Albert.

Albany Public Library, Pruyn Libray

I wrote a letter, January 6, 20002, and am awaiting a reply.

Mount Albion Cemetery, Albion, New York

I called the proprietor of this cemetery, and asked for a mailed photocopy of any of the burial, and any other information concerning Albert Mack Sterling, to which he said he would mail to me. He said there is a `type' of obituary, whatever that means, and that Albert was cremated. I neglected to ask him for the burial information for Albert's first wife, and his parents, just to have in my files, and so have sent a separate request by mail.

[www.rootsweb.com/~nyorlean/mtalbs7.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~nyorlean/mtalbs7.htm)

This is the web site I found the information of Albert, his parents, and his first wife's burials.

Dick Andress, New York State Library

Dick, in an email, said they have no manuscript materials relating to Albert. He said he checked the New York State Library/State Archives on-line catalog, which includes citations from most historical manuscripts repositories in New York State. The web site is <http://nysl.nysed.gov>. Off hand, I don't recall if there is a www. after http://. Dick did say the State Library does have a copy of The Sterling Genealogy, but that is all.

University of Albany email request. R. Gifford said their catalog does not show any holdings for materials or papers pertaining to Albert.

New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, MA

They do not have any items pertaining to Albert, and suggested checking the Library of Congress, which, Mike, I believe you said you have already done. I also checked this site, but did not find anything, other than Albert's two volume genealogy.

1. From Mike Jex's reference of the Jewett family books, I did a search on [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), for the husband of Albert's sister. Louis Alva Pickett was listed as a pastor of a Baptist church in the town of Guilford, Chenango County, NY. I then emailed Tom Gray, the town historian. Town archives begin in 1885 for copies of death, birth, and marriage records. Tom also did searches in his available records for the names of Pickett, Sterling, and Hamilton (Hamilton being the middle name of Chester, the son of Albert's sister and her husband, Rev. Pickett). The township of Guildford has 6 hamlets, and into the 1800's had 8. Tom said he personally searched through all the birth, death, and marriage records in the town hall, and had no luck on the name Pickett (also checked Picket). The only Sterling reference in the files was a William Sterling listed in Smith's History as being a vestryman in Grace Church in Mt. Upton. He reported that many of the old Baptist churches no longer exist. The Baptist Church in near Mt. Upton burned in the latter part of the 1800's, as well as one in Gilbertsville, 1875. The North Guilford Baptist Church no longer exists, as well as the ones in Yaleville, and the hamlet of Guilford. The only one remaining is in Mt. Upton. He called the town clerk who lives in Mt. Upton, and she does not believe that they have any records from the 1800's. As pastor of the church, Louis Pickett might have lived in another town, and Tom doesn't have access to those, naturally.

2. There is a Social Security Death Index listing for a Chester Pickett, with the same birth date you provided me, Mike, in a email of March 17, 2000. His last residence was 13905 Binghamton, Broome County, New York. He was born May 17, 1900, and died in January 1978. His Social Security Number was 362-09-5323, and it was issued in Michigan, before the year 1951. I am going to attempt to find his obituary, thus his descendants. Through a [www.switchboard.com](http://www.switchboard.com) search, I called Deborah, and Heather Pickett, both living in Binghamton, New York, they were the only Pickett listings. I called Heather, and she did not recognize any of the names and information I shared with her. I called Deborah, who was not home, and left a message for her to call. She also has an email address, so I also sent her an email. She replied to the email query, and said her branch of the Pickett's appears to have been living in Australia since about 1850. She can trace her ancestry to Ireland, though the actual name "Pickett" is of unknown origin, as the relevant migrants from Ireland were women, and thus took on their husbands' names. In any case, she suspects that if she is related to Chester, it's at least five generations back, probably more. Her family tree is only known back about three generations, in most directions.

#### IN CONCLUSION:

1. I will contact the newspapers Albert was employed by; New York World, New York Journal, and Syracuse Herald, and Sunday Magazine, in Buffalo, New York. Perhaps he had them do something with his papers.
2. Will also check for the book which he was the compiler "History of the Sterling Family and of the Vital Records of Lyme, Connecticut". Mike, this was sent to me, by you in the March 17, 2001 email, and could you clarify if this was one book, or the Vital Records of Lyme, Connecticut, a separate book. I want to be sure of this, before I start checking on it. If this is actually, one or two books, then I would suggest I look in Connecticut for his papers. What do you think? Maybe he felt the papers should go there, since that is where his ancestors were from?
3. As soon as I receive Albert's obituary and burial/cremation papers from Mt. Albion Cemetery, hopefully there will be information about his daughter's married name, if she, in fact, ever married; and other descendants of Albert's.
4. Syracuse, Onondaga County, New York. After receiving his burial/cremation information, I will begin searching in Onondaga County, since that is where Elizabeth Suissabell, his daughter, was born on January 17, 1904, in Syracuse. I think this is a real possibility, IF she is still living, or I can find HER descendants who might have Albert's material, or know where the material is.

Mike, I agree with you; IF the sought after papers, notes, photos, etc. still exist, they are most likely in the possession of a family member, since, to date, searches in societies, libraries, and such, have not proved fruitful.

I will keep you updated.

30 Jan 2002 - Update on Albert's Papers - Obituary Located.

30 Jan 2002 - Latest News From Lady Mary on the hunt for Albert Sterling's papers used to publish the book "The Sterling Genealogy.

I received, from Mt. Albion Cemetery personnel, the obituary of Albert; the burial lot information; and the cremation record of Ferncliff Crematory.

As frequently happens, there are age discrepancies between the crematory and obituary records. Following, please find the

information from both articles. Also, the steps I plan taking.

Ferncliff Crematory, Ferncliff Cemetery, Town of Greenburgh, Westchester County, New York. Dobbs Ferry 1803, Murray Hill 2-4615. No. 8310. Date Feb. 14, 1941. There is an ink-stamped date of May 7th, 1941, with an amount of \$5.00. This form is signed by the Superintendent James W. Boggess.

Know All Men by these Presents, that Albert Mack Sterling, Male, White, 67 Years 3 Months 9 Days, Married, Birthplace New York State, Date of Death Feb 12, 1941, Place of Death Residence: 35 W. 90th St., New York, N.Y., Cause of Death, Natural Causes. Undertaker Stephen Merritt B. & C. Co., 234 Eighth Ave., NYC., Has been cremated at Ferncliff Crematory by authority of cremation permit No. 3907 of Dept. of Health of the City of New York (Manhattan), Dated Feb. 14, 1941, and of Cecil H. Sterling, Wife, Address 35 W. 90th St., New York, NY. The Ferncliff Crematory Canister numbered 8310, and marked with His name, contains His cremated remains. Disposition to Undertaker, Interment made 5/5/41.

Burial lot form: Lot No. 1321 Boxwood Avenue. Grave Space By deed to: Eugene S. Sterling. Remarks: A.M. Sterling and L.A. Pickett, August 1, 1902 Book 3, page 149. Albert M. Sterling - 1941, Lillian W. 1876-1929, Ellen E. 1835-1904, Eugene S. 1837-1929.

Obituary (note the incorrect surname of Spaulding, which on the obituary was crossed out, and handwritten across it was Sterling): Albert M. Spaulding. Albert M. Spaulding, native of Gaines, died last Wednesday in New York City. His age was 66. He received his education at Albion High School, and a New York City art school, and for 40 years has been engaged as an artist on newspapers, and with advertising agencies in Buffalo, Cincinnati, New York, and Syracuse. Burial will be made in the family plot at Mt. Albion Cemetery. Mr. Sterling leaves his wife and a daughter, Mrs. Merritt Cutler, in New York.

Conclusion: I am in the process of emailing Cutler people who live in New York, to be followed-up by personal letters, if needed I hope to find a child of Albert's daughter, Elizabeth Suissabell Sterling, who married Merritt Cutler. Better yet, would be to find Elizabeth, though all my attempts to find her, have not proved fruitful, as to date. I am still in the process of writing newspapers, etc., as mentioned in my last post to you.

Keep your fingers crossed. If Albert's papers are still in existence, I have faith that I WILL find them!

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Albert published The Sterling Genealogy in 1909. The book was printed by Grandin Press, a run of two hundred rare copies.

A. M. Sterling was an illustrator and designer; studied at the schools of the National Academy of Design and with William M. Chase in New York; has been upon the staffs of the New York World, New York Journal, and Syracuse Herald, and is at present (1909) with the Illustrated Sunday Magazine, Buffalo, New York. He has contributed to Life, Saturday Evening Post, Ladies Home Journal, etc. and is the compiler of this genealogy and History of the Sterling Family and of the Vital Records of Lyme, Conn. He is a member of the Masonic Order.

Source: The Sterling Genealogy, VOL II, Page 815.