

## Francis Henry Conrad of Cambria County, Johnstown, Pennsylvania

### Introduction—Like Father, Like Son

The Conrad family of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, date back to Baltzer Conrad who was born about 1770 in Frederick, Maryland.<sup>1</sup> The focus of this family sketch is on Baltzer's great-grandson, Francis Henry Conrad. Francis Henry Conrad had one son, Francis Henry Conrad, Jr.<sup>2</sup> In addition to them sharing the same name, Francis Sr. and Francis Jr. shared other similarities. Francis Henry Conrad, Sr. and Francis Henry Conrad, Jr. were both born in and grew up in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Both father and son served in the Army—senior served during WWI and junior served during the Korean War. The similarities did not stop there, both father and son worked in the insurance industry—senior in life insurance and junior as an insurance broker for large corporations. Even more coincidental, Francis Jr. died on Francis Sr.'s birthday on 4 October.

### Francis' Childhood

Francis was born 4 years after the tragic 1889 Johnstown flood that killed more than 2,000 people.<sup>3</sup> Two of Francis' uncles perished in this flood.<sup>4</sup>

### The Flood

Urgent requests from two men near the dam were given to the telegraph office to pass the information to the telegraph office in Johnstown, but the requests were never sent. At around 3:10 p.m., the South Fork Dam burst and 20 million tons of Lake Conemaugh cascaded down the Little Conemaugh River.<sup>5</sup> On its way downstream toward Johnstown, the force of the water picked up trees, houses, and animals. Just before hitting the main part of the city, the flood surge hit the Cambria Iron Works at the town of Woodvale, taking with it railroad cars and barbed wire.<sup>6</sup> Boilers from the Iron Works exploded.<sup>7</sup> The inhabitants of Johnstown were caught by surprise as the wall of water and debris bore down on the village traveling at 40 miles per hour and reaching a height of

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<sup>1</sup> Find A Grave, *Find A Grave*, database with images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 19 February 2017), memorial #114551823, Baltzer Conrad (1770–1845), Saint Patrick's Cemetery, Blair County, Newry, Pennsylvania; gravestone photographed by Albert Ledoux.

<sup>2</sup> United States of America, Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, notification of birth registration, state file no. 132308, Francis Henry Conrad (21 August 1928), registration of vital statistics in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Johnstown.

<sup>3</sup> Johnson, Willis Fletcher. *History of the Johnstown Flood*. Edgewood Publishing Co., 1889.

<sup>4</sup> Gable, John E. *History of Cambria County Pennsylvania in Two Volumes*, Illustrated, Vol. II, Historical Publishing Company, Topeka, Indianapolis, 1926. pp. 1159–1160.

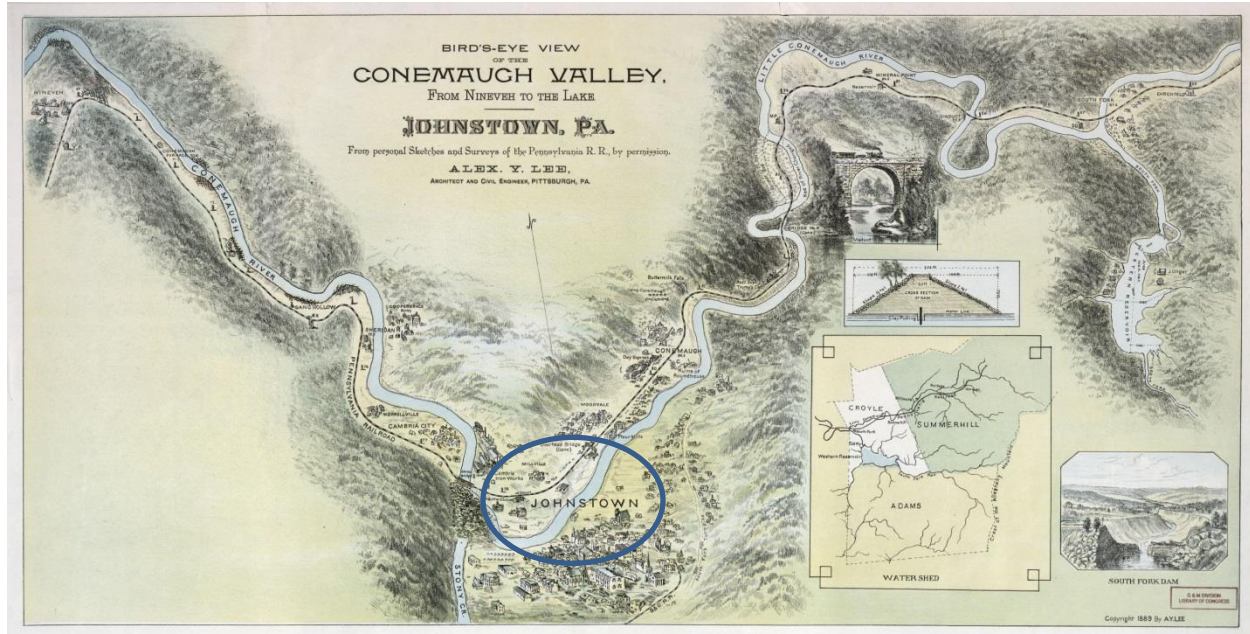
<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Johnson, Willis Fletcher. *History of the Johnstown Flood*.

60 feet in places.<sup>8</sup> Many people were crushed by pieces of debris and others became caught in barbed wire from the wire factory upstream.<sup>9</sup>

The map below shows the location of Johnstown in the valley.



Source: Lee, Alex. Y. and Pennsylvania Railroad. *Bird's-eye view of the Conemaugh Valley from Nineveh to the lake, Johnstown, PA: from personal sketches and surveys of the Pennsylvania R.R. by permission.* [Pittsburgh?: A.Y. Lee, 1889] Map. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2010588930/>. (Accessed 12 January 2017.)

This flood was the first major disaster for which the newly formed Red Cross provided medical assistance, shelter, and supplies to the people of Johnstown. The depressing task of identifying the bodies was part of the process; however, 700 of those who perished could not be identified. Five thousand homes were destroyed and many families lived in tents. It took Johnstown 5 years to rebuild.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>8</sup> "The Johnstown Flood of 1889," Johnstown Flood Museum, Johnstown Area Heritage Association, [Jaha.org/edu/flood/background.html](http://Jaha.org/edu/flood/background.html), (accessed 11 January 2017).

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

Johnstown was still rebuilding from this epic disaster during Francis' early and formative years. Families likely struggled during this time and many decided to move out of the area.<sup>11</sup> Francis' family endured the trying times and became an integral part of Johnstown's history.

As a child in the early 1900s, Francis probably played a lot outside. Horse and buggies were still in use until 1908 when the Ford automobile became more affordable due to the creation of the assembly line. Francis likely rode his bike or took a streetcar to get to school.

Francis attended parochial school and then Johnstown High School.<sup>12</sup> After school and during vacations, he sold the *Johnstown Tribune*.<sup>13</sup> Francis spent his family vacations in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and at Luna Park (near Coney Island), New York.<sup>14</sup>



Source: Francis Conrad Driving Cart Number 16 While on Vacation, Atlantic City, New Jersey, negative scanned 5 May 2012 by Terry Kelly, privately held by Terry Kelly, [address for private use,] Bowie, Maryland 20715.

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> "The Johnstown Flood of 1889," Johnstown Flood Museum, Johnstown Area Heritage Association, [Jaha.org/edu/flood/background.html](http://Jaha.org/edu/flood/background.html), (accessed 11 January 2017).

<sup>13</sup> Pen and ink illustration of Francis H. Conrad, created for his retirement and included life events, illustrated by Jack Moranz, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, digital image taken 8 January 2017 by Terry Kelly, privately held by Gloria Conrad, [address for private use,] Springfield, Virginia, 22152 [not dated].

<sup>14</sup> Francis H. Conrad, Jr. Oral interview, 1 March 2008, by Terry Kelly at Francis' home in Springfield, Virginia. Digital recording in possession of Terry Kelly, Bowie, Maryland.



### Francis as a Young Adult

When Francis was 16 or 17, he met Viola Grace Custer at her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday party.<sup>15</sup> They kept in touch over the years, finally marrying in 1925 when they were in their early 30s.<sup>16,17</sup>

When Francis was 17, he lived at 524 Vickroy Street in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, with his parents and siblings.<sup>18</sup> Prior to that, the family lived at 147 Singer Street in Johnstown City.<sup>19</sup>



Source: Conrad Family Home, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, negative scanned 5 May 2012 by Terry Kelly, privately held by Terry Kelly, [address for private use,] Bowie, Maryland 20715.



Source: Francis Conrad and Viola Custer in Daisy Field, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, negative scanned 5 May 2012 by Terry Kelly, privately held by Terry Kelly, [address for private use,] Bowie, Maryland 20715.

<sup>15</sup> Francis H. Conrad, Jr. Oral interview, 1 March 2008, by Terry Kelly at Francis' home in Springfield, Virginia. Digital recording in possession of Terry Kelly, Bowie, Maryland.

<sup>16</sup> "Conrad-Custer," *The Tribune Democrat* (Johnstown, PA), 18 June 1925, page 17, column 7, Recordak Microfilm, The Johnstown Tribune, June, 1925, Recordak Corporate [no number].

<sup>17</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Cambria County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Ferndale Borough, enumeration district [11-42], sheet no. 7B (penned), dwelling 140, family 153, Francis Conrad, digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 24 February 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication T626, roll 2011.

<sup>18</sup> 1910 U.S. census, Cambria County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Ferndale Borough, enumeration district 158, p. 3B (penned), dwelling 54 [crossed out], family 64, Frank J. Conrad, digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed [7 January 2017]); citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 1325.

<sup>19</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Cambria County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Johnstown City, enumeration district 133, sheet no. 10 (penned), dwelling 164, family 178, Frank J. Conrad, digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed [24 February 2017]); citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1389.

After high school, in 1912, Francis enrolled in and completed a business course. Then he went to work for the Lorain Steel Company eventually working in the purchasing department.<sup>20</sup>

### **Francis Enlists in WWI**

On June 5, 1917, Francis was drafted but failed to pass the Army physical.<sup>21</sup> However, on 2 April 1918, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was sent to Camp Lee, Virginia, assigned to the personnel section of the 317 Infantry.<sup>22</sup> Francis described himself as 5'5 1/4" tall with brown eyes, black hair, and a slender build.<sup>23</sup>

Francis went to France in May 1918 on the transport Mongolia, and landed at Brest, France. He participated in the Argonne, Saint Mihiel, and Somme-Aisne offensives.<sup>24,25</sup>

Francis kept a daily itinerary of his travels during WWI and received letters from family members regularly and responded often.<sup>26,27</sup>



Source: Francis Conrad Wearing Suit, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, negative scanned 5 May 2012 by Terry Kelly, privately held by Terry Kelly, [address for private use,] Bowie, Maryland 20715.

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<sup>20</sup> Gable, John E. *History of Cambria County Pennsylvania in Two Volumes*, Illustrated, Vol. II, Historical Publishing Company, Topeka, Indianapolis, 1926. pp. 1159–1160.

<sup>21</sup> "World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918," digital images, Ancestry.com ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 24 February 2017), Francis Henry Conrad, no. 82 [penned], Draft Board 1, Boro of Ferndale, Cambria County, Pennsylvania, citing World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, NARA microfilm publication M1509, roll 1877747.

<sup>22</sup> Gable, John E. *History of Cambria County Pennsylvania in Two Volumes*.

<sup>23</sup> "World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918."

<sup>24</sup> Gable, John E. *History of Cambria County Pennsylvania in Two Volumes*.

<sup>25</sup> "Pennsylvania, WWI Veterans Services and Compensation Files, 1917–1919, 1934–1948," digital images, Ancestry.com ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 24 February 2017), Francis Henry Conrad, no. 94338, Cambria County, Pennsylvania, citing Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Veteran's Compensation Application, RG 19, Series 19.91, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

<sup>26</sup> Francis Henry Conrad, Station List of Headquarters Co., 317<sup>th</sup> Infantry, American Expeditionary Forces, 1918–1919, privately held by Terry Kelly, [address for private use,] Bowie, Maryland 20715.

<sup>27</sup> Francis H. Conrad, Original WWI Letters, privately held by Terry Kelly, [address for private use,] Bowie, Maryland 20715.

On 9 December 1918, Francis wrote home from LeMans, France:

Dearest Folks:

At present I am waiting patiently on trucks to take us some thirty miles from our present place so will write describing some of my experiences. Some weeks ago another chap and myself started out to locate our outfit to secure some information, we knew they were some twenty miles away and had an idea of their location. We had an old automobile road map to go-by, anyway we started out to find them, left the place our office was located at 7:00 a.m. with full equipment, we hiked until noon when we reached advanced area, in other words, villages and woods recently evacuated by the Germans, so the traveling got harder as the place was full of shell holes and mine entanglements galore as well as the road being shot up in many places but we pushed on passing all kinds of artillery. One surely does get their ears ringing around an artillery outfit, we passed hundreds of guns all sizes, late in the afternoon we located the place where the regiment had been the day before or the place we had been instructed to find them, as they had to continue on. We hiked some three or four miles when we finally located them.

During this last three or four miles we saw a fine sight, a German plane was maneuvering near one of our observation balloons. The air-craft guns were popping away at him and kept him away for some time but finally he succeeded in getting thru and made a straight nose dive for balloon, passed right over top of same, immediately the balloon observer jumped out with his parachute, made a safe landing. I was only 100 yards away from him, after the plane had crossed over the balloon it went up in flames, I think they pour some kind of liquid fire or chemicals on balloon. The plane meaning (German) started back towards his lines, he was flying very low, machine-guns and anti air-craft guns had the sky covered with shrapnel and bullets but he continued to fly, up and down in fact, every direction, finally an American



Source: **Francis**<sup>1</sup> Conrad in WWI Uniform, [location unknown], photograph scanned 5 May 2012 by Terry Kelly, privately held by Terry Kelly, [address for private use,] Bowie, Maryland 20715.

plane was seen giving chase, the guns stopped firing in order to give him a chance, it only took him some twenty minutes to get the German and Gee! We were glad he got this fellow as he seemed to be a nifty and daring aviator we were all afraid he would get away but it was a relief to see him come down. . .<sup>28</sup>

On January 4, 1919, 6 months before his honorable discharge, he wrote home:

Talk about excitement that other night about three a.m. I was awakened and when I looked, I saw about four fellas standing on their bed sacks with shoes in their hands, they were chasing rats and big ones at that, we killed two before we again went to sleep, there is about twelve of us who sleep in a fair sized room in one of the old French barns, those rats sure did get a run for their money. . .one of the fellas had one sitting on his face about a week ago. . .they hardly bother me anymore. What a life, eh?<sup>29</sup>

### **Francis Returns from War**

He was discharged at Camp Lee, Virginia, 13 June 1919, returned to Johnstown, and rejoined the Lorain Steel Company.<sup>30,31</sup> The following February, he enrolled at Carnegie Institute of Technology and went on to earn his bachelor's degree in 1921.<sup>32</sup> He then started working for the Edward A. Woods Company in Pittsburgh as a general agent for the Equitable Life Insurance Company of New York. He was later transferred to Johnstown as a special agent for the company.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> Francis H. Conrad, Original WWI Letters, privately held by Terry Kelly, [address for private use,] Bowie, Maryland 20715.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> Gable, John E. *History of Cambria County Pennsylvania in Two Volumes*, Illustrated, Vol. II, Historical Publishing Company, Topeka, Indianapolis, 1926. pp. 1159–1160.

<sup>31</sup> "Pennsylvania, WWI Veterans Services and Compensation Files, 1917–1919, 1934–1948," digital images, Ancestry.com ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 24 February 2017), Francis Henry Conrad, no. 94338, Cambria County, Pennsylvania, citing Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Veteran's Compensation Application, RG 19, Series 19.91, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

<sup>31</sup> Francis Henry Conrad, Station List of Headquarters Co., 317<sup>th</sup> Infantry, American Expeditionary Forces, 1918–1919, privately held by Terry Kelly, [address for private use,] Bowie, Maryland 20715.

<sup>32</sup> Gable, John E. *History of Cambria County Pennsylvania in Two Volumes*.

<sup>33</sup> Gable, John E. *History of Cambria County Pennsylvania in Two Volumes*.



Now that Francis felt established back home in Johnstown, he finally proposed to Viola. On 16 June 1925, Francis married Viola Grace Custer at the Church of the Sacred Heart in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and the reception was at the Hotel Schenley in Pittsburgh.<sup>34</sup>

The bride was attired in a dark blue georgette crepe dress trimmed with gold braid with a hat to match. Her flowers were butterfly roses and lilies of the valley. . .<sup>35</sup>

Francis was 31 years old and Viola was approximately the same age.<sup>36</sup> Three years later, Francis and Viola welcomed their only child, **Francis**<sup>2</sup> Henry Conrad, Jr. (Sonny) on 21 August 1928.<sup>37</sup> The 1930 census shows the Conrad family renting a home on Ferndale Avenue in Johnstown.<sup>38</sup> By the 1940s, the Conrad family owned the home at 1345 Kemmer Street in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.<sup>39</sup> Francis and Viola remained in this home for the rest of their lives.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> "Conrad-Custer," *The Tribune Democrat* (Johnstown, PA), 18 June 1925, page 17, column 7, Recordak Microfilm, The Johnstown Tribune, June, 1925, Recordak Corporate [no number].

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> Find A Grave, *Find A Grave*, database with images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 2 November 2014), memorial #100883580, Viola Grace Custer Conrad (1894–1977), Grandview Cemetery, Cambria County, Johnstown, Pennsylvania; gravestone photographed by Terry Kelly.

<sup>37</sup> United States of America, Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, notification of birth registration (number 132308), Francis H. Conrad, Jr. (1928); Harrisonburg, Pennsylvania.

<sup>38</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Cambria County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Ferndale Borough, enumeration district [11-42], sheet no. 7B (penned), dwelling 140, family 153, Francis Conrad, digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 24 February 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication T626, roll 2011.

<sup>39</sup> 1940 U.S. census, Cambria County, Upper Yoder Township, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Westmont Borough, enumeration district [161B?], p. 12B (penned), dwelling 1345, family 238, Francis H. Conrad, digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 14 January 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication T627, roll 3458.

<sup>40</sup> Francis H. Conrad, Jr. Oral interview, 1 March 2008, by Terry Kelly at Francis' home in Springfield, Virginia. Digital recording in possession of Terry Kelly, Bowie, Maryland.





Source: Francis and Viola Conrad Home at 1345 Kemmer Street, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, digital image taken 3 August 2011 by Terry Kelly, privately held by Terry Kelly, [address for private use,] Bowie, Maryland 20715.

One year after Francis, Jr. was born, the country went into The Great Depression. Between 1929 and 1939, millions of people lost jobs, banks closed, and many families lost everything. The Conrad family seemed to fare pretty well during this time. Francis was employed and they had a home in Westmont. They even had a live-in maid who made \$5 per week and was responsible for cleaning, fixing meals, mowing the lawn, and more!<sup>41,42</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> Francis H. Conrad, Jr. Oral interview, 1 March 2008, by Terry Kelly at Francis' home in Springfield, Virginia. Digital recording in possession of Terry Kelly, Bowie, Maryland.

<sup>42</sup> 1940 U.S. census, Cambria County, Upper Yoder Township, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Westmont Borough, enumeration district [161B?], p. 12B (penned), dwelling 1345, family 238, Francis H. Conrad, digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 14 January 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication T627, roll 3458.

On 30 October 1938, there was a nationwide panic when Orson Welles broadcasted *The War of the Worlds* announcing that Martians were invading Earth. Most listeners did not know it was fiction. Francis and his son, Francis Jr., were at Francis' office in downtown Johnstown when the broadcast started. People were running out into the street to look up into the sky to see if they could see any Martians coming. Viola was at home alone and one could only imagine what she was thinking.<sup>43</sup>

The 1940s and WWII helped to bring the country out of the Depression. Jobs were created and many people were able to go back to work in support of the war effort. Families planted victory gardens, used ration stamps, and were very conservative in their spending.<sup>44</sup>

The 1950s ushered in the Korean War and Francis Jr. was drafted. Luckily, his parents insisted that he take the test for Officer Candidate School (OCS). After he was finished with basic training, he was one of two soldiers in his unit to be selected to go to OCS. After OCS, Francis Jr. was a second lieutenant in the Army and was transferred to Fort Worth and then to Washington, DC.<sup>45</sup> Francis Sr. lived out his life in Johnstown, while Francis Jr. was stationed in Washington, D.C., met his wife-to-be, and ended up settling down in Northern Virginia and raising a family.<sup>46</sup>



Source: Francis, Viola, and son, Francis Conrad, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, digital scan taken 5 May 2012 by Terry Kelly, privately held by Terry Kelly, [address for private use,] Bowie, Maryland 20715.

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<sup>43</sup> Francis H. Conrad, Jr. Oral interview, 1 March 2008, by Terry Kelly at Francis' home in Springfield, Virginia. Digital recording in possession of Terry Kelly, Bowie, Maryland.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

Francis and Viola enjoyed many years together. Francis continued to work well into his 70s for the Equitable Life Insurance Company and Viola enjoyed gardening and playing golf.<sup>47</sup> She had a beautiful garden in her backyard.<sup>48</sup>



Source: Viola Conrad in Her Backyard Garden, photograph scanned 5 May 2012 by Terry Kelly, privately held by Terry Kelly, [address for private use,] Bowie, Maryland 20715.



Source: Francis and Viola Conrad, [location unknown], photograph scanned 5 May 2012 by Terry Kelly, privately held by Terry Kelly, [address for private use,] Bowie, Maryland 20715.

Viola (my mom) in Garden: This picture was taken in the backyard of our home at 1345 Kemmer Street, Johnstown, PA. Mom loved her flowers and roses. Notice the trellis is covered with beautiful roses. There were a few steps down thru the trellis to a small grassy plot, surrounded by flowers. Not in the picture, but to the right was our Victory garden where we raised our vegetables during WWII. Wren house on top of clothes pole always had occupants. Mom was a very active member of the Garden Club in Westmont and Johnstown and won many prizes for floral arrangements.

*Francis H. Conrad, Jr. July 2011*

<sup>47</sup> Francis H. Conrad, Jr. Oral interview, 1 March 2008, by Terry Kelly at Francis' home in Springfield, Virginia. Digital recording in possession of Terry Kelly, Bowie, Maryland.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.



Francis' hobbies include motor traveling and golf, and he was a member of the Elks, American Legion, Sunnehanna Country Club, and North Folk Country Club. He was also the President of the Johnstown Life Underwriters Association, Director of the Edward A. Woods Company of Pittsburgh, and Vice President of the E.A. Woods Agents Association.<sup>49</sup>

Every winter, Francis and Viola, along with friends, would fly south to enjoy the Florida warmth. It was there while on vacation that he died on 13 March 1977.<sup>50</sup> Francis had been diagnosed with stomach cancer more than 10 years prior to his death. His family made the decision not to tell Francis about the cancer diagnosis.<sup>51</sup> Francis' body was transported back to Johnstown and his funeral service was held on 16 March 1977 at Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.<sup>52</sup> Many family and friends attended the funeral. Viola died almost 6 months to the day of Francis' death.<sup>53</sup>

### Summary

Francis enjoyed growing up in a large family with seven brothers and sisters. They worked hard together to recover from the 1889 Johnstown Flood, as well as from The Great Depression. As Francis grew up, he enrolled in business courses to help him with his future endeavors. Francis served honorably during World War I and returned home



Source: Francis Conrad in Tampa, Florida, photograph scanned 5 May 2012 by Terry Kelly, privately held by Terry Kelly, [address for private use,] Bowie, Maryland 20715.

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<sup>49</sup> Pen and ink illustration of Francis H. Conrad, created for his retirement and included life events, illustrated by Jack Moranz, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, digital image taken 8 January 2017 by Terry Kelly, privately held by Gloria Conrad, [address for private use,] Springfield, Virginia, 22152 [not dated].

<sup>50</sup> Grandview Cemetery (Johnstown, Pennsylvania), Conrad tombstone; personally read, 3 August 2011. [inscribed Conrad, Francis 1893–1977, Viola 1894–1977, Married June 16, 1925]

<sup>51</sup> Francis H. Conrad, Jr. Oral interview, 1 March 2008, by Terry Kelly at Francis' home in Springfield, Virginia. Digital recording in possession of Terry Kelly, Bowie, Maryland.

<sup>52</sup> "CONRAD—Francis Henry", Obituary, *The Tribune Democrat* (Johnstown, PA), 15 March 1977, page 18, column .

<sup>53</sup> Find A Grave, *Find A Grave*, database with images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 2 November 2014), memorial #100883580, Viola Grace Custer Conrad (1894–1977), Grandview Cemetery, Cambria Country, Johnstown, Pennsylvania; gravestone photographed by Terry Kelly.



ready to become an established businessman and to marry his sweetheart. He settled down in Johnstown near his family roots and raised his only son who followed in his father's footsteps.

## Genealogical Summary

### First Generation

1. **Francis<sup>1</sup> Henry Conrad** (Francis<sup>A</sup>) was born 4 October 1893 in Cambria County, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, to Frank J. Conrad and Anna Marie Burkhard.<sup>54</sup> He married Viola Grace Custer on 16 June 1925 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.<sup>55</sup> Viola was born 2 December 1894 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania to Ida May Briney and Charles Freeman Custer, and died 12 September 1977.<sup>56</sup> **Francis<sup>1</sup>** died on 13 March 1977 while on vacation with Viola in Tampa, Florida.<sup>57</sup> Both Francis and Viola are buried in Grandview Cemetery in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.<sup>58,59</sup>

**Francis<sup>1</sup>** was the second to youngest child of eight children born to Frank J. Conrad and Anna Marie Burkhard.<sup>60,61</sup> Known siblings of Francis Henry Conrad were as follows:

- i. John Joseph Conrad (b. 6 May 1880; d. 8 October 1966)<sup>62,63</sup>  
m. Anna E. Trout (b. 13 November 1882; d. 9 November 1957)<sup>64,65</sup>

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<sup>54</sup> Cambria County Courthouse, 200 S Center St, Ebensburg, PA 15931, Cambria County, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, Birth Record for Francis Conrad (4 October 1893), Control Number 1095, Vol. 1, Page 26, Line 12.

<sup>55</sup> "Conrad-Custer," *The Tribune Democrat* (Johnstown, PA), 18 June 1925, page 17, column 7, Recordak Microfilm, The Johnstown Tribune, June, 1925, Recordak Corporate [no number].

<sup>56</sup> Find A Grave, *Find A Grave*, database with images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 2 November 2014), memorial #100883580, Viola Grace Custer Conrad (1894–1977), Grandview Cemetery, Cambria Country, Johnstown, Pennsylvania; gravestone photographed by Terry Kelly.

<sup>57</sup> "CONRAD—Francis Henry", Obituary, *The Tribune Democrat* (Johnstown, PA), 15 March 1977, page 18, column 1.

<sup>58</sup> Find A Grave, *Find A Grave*, database with images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 2 November 2014), memorial #100883571, Francis Henry Conrad, Sr. (1893–1977), Grandview Cemetery, Cambria Country, Johnstown, Pennsylvania; gravestone photographed by Terry Kelly.

<sup>59</sup> Find A Grave, *Find A Grave*, database with images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 2 November 2014), memorial #100883580, Viola Grace Custer Conrad (1894–1977), Grandview Cemetery, Cambria Country, Johnstown, Pennsylvania; gravestone photographed by Terry Kelly.

<sup>60</sup> Gable, John E. *History of Cambria County Pennsylvania in Two Volumes*, Illustrated, Vol. II, Historical Publishing Company, Topeka, Indianapolis, 1926. pp. 1159–1160.

<sup>61</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Cambria County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Johnstown City, enumeration district 133, sheet no. 10 (penned), dwelling 164, family 178, Frank Conrad and family, digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed [8 January 2017]); citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1389.

- ii. Mary Elizabeth Conrad (b. 1 March 1882; d. 20 November 1983)<sup>66</sup>  
m. Robert Newton Haws (b. 11 March 1882; d. 3 May 1938)<sup>67</sup>
- iii. Agnes Regina Conrad (b. February 1884; d. 1940)<sup>68</sup>  
m. Joseph DeSails Bligh (b. 9 December 1882; d. 8 August 1946)<sup>69</sup>
- iv. Anna Marie Conrad (b. 17 August 1886; d. 30 June 1962)<sup>70</sup>  
m. William Philip Kirchner (b. 19 March 1888; d. 17 July 1950)<sup>71</sup>
- v. Gertrude C. Conrad (b. 18 November 1888; d. 25 March 1979)<sup>72</sup>  
m. Frank McCann Craig (b. 4 July 1883; 21 January 1963)<sup>73</sup>
- vi. Leo Michael Conrad (b. 10 April 1891; d. 23 July 1973)<sup>74</sup>  
m. Florence Esther Cramer (b. 21 April 1894; d. 3 July 1976)<sup>75</sup>

<sup>62</sup> "United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918," database with images, ancestry.com (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 12 February 2017), card for John Joseph Conrad, serial no. 319, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pennsylvania; citing National Archives microfilm publication M1509; Family History Library microfilm 1,893,243.

<sup>63</sup> Find A Grave, *Find A Grave*, database with images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 2 November 2014), memorial #100883479, John Conrad (1880–1966), Grandview Cemetery, Cambria County, Johnstown, Pennsylvania; gravestone photographed by Terry Kelly.

<sup>64</sup> Find A Grave, *Find A Grave*, database with images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 2 November 2014), memorial #100883465, Anna E. Trout Conrad (1882–1957), Grandview Cemetery, Cambria County, Johnstown, Pennsylvania; gravestone photographed by Terry Kelly.

<sup>65</sup> Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Health, death certificate, state file no. 99481, registrar no. 1203, Anna E. Trout (1957); Division of Vital Statistics, Johnstown.

<sup>66</sup> Find A Grave, *Find A Grave*, database with images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 2 November 2014), memorial #103188520, Mary C. Haws (1882–1983), Grandview Cemetery, Cambria County, Johnstown, Pennsylvania; gravestone photographed by MKoestler.

<sup>67</sup> Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Health, death certificate, state file no. 44904, registrar no. 444, Robert N. Haws (1938); Division of Vital Statistics, Johnstown.

<sup>68</sup> Gable, John E. *History of Cambria County Pennsylvania in Two Volumes*, Illustrated, Vol. II, Historical Publishing Company, Topeka, Indianapolis, 1926. pp. 1158.

<sup>69</sup> "U.S. Social Security Application and Claims Index, 1936–2007," database with images, ancestry.com (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 12 February 2017), death claim for Joseph Desails Bligh (1882–1946).

<sup>70</sup> Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Health, death certificate, state file no. 055553-62, registrar no. 796, Anna Marie Kirchner (1962); Division of Vital Statistics, Johnstown.

<sup>71</sup> Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Health, death certificate, state file no. 58593, registrar no. 647, William Philip Kirchner (1950); Division of Vital Statistics, Johnstown.

<sup>72</sup> Find A Grave, *Find A Grave*, database with images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 21 February 2017), memorial #101123382, Gertrude Conrad Craig (1888–1979), Grandview Cemetery, Cambria County, Johnstown, Pennsylvania; gravestone photographed by MKoestler.

<sup>73</sup> Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Health, death certificate, state file no. 00265363, registrar no. 85, Frank M. Craig (1963); Division of Vital Statistics, Westmont.

- vii. Marguerite F. Conrad (b. 10 May 1896; d. 13 May 1997)<sup>76</sup>  
m. 3 June 1925 to Joseph C. Kelly (b. 15 March 1896; d. April 1980)<sup>77</sup>

Francis and Viola were the parents of one child:

- + 2 i. Francis Henry Conrad, Jr.

## Second Generation

2. **Francis<sup>2</sup> Henry Conrad, Jr.** (Francis<sup>1</sup>, Francis<sup>A</sup>) was born 21 August 1928 in Cambria County, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, to Francis Henry Conrad and Viola Grace Custer.<sup>78</sup> He married Gloria Davenport on 8 January 1955 in Washington, D.C.<sup>79</sup> Gloria was born 16 January 1933 in Portales, New Mexico to Jennie Hortense Ross and Henry Grady Davenport.<sup>80</sup> **Francis<sup>2</sup>** died on 4 October 2015 at home in Springfield, Virginia.<sup>81</sup>

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<sup>74</sup> Find A Grave, *Find A Grave*, database with images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 21 February 2017), memorial #100883521, Leo Michael Conrad (1891–1973), Grandview Cemetery, Cambria County, Johnstown, Pennsylvania; gravestone photographed by Brian J. Ensley.

<sup>75</sup> Find A Grave, *Find A Grave*, database with images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 21 February 2017), memorial #100883566, Florence Esther Cramer (1894–1976), Grandview Cemetery, Cambria County, Johnstown, Pennsylvania; gravestone photographed by Brian J. Ensley.

<sup>76</sup> “U.S. Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014,” database with images, ancestry.com (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 24 February 2017), Marguerite C. Kelly (1896–1997).

<sup>77</sup> “U.S. Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014,” database with images, ancestry.com (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed 24 February 2017), Joseph Kelly (1896–1980).

<sup>78</sup> United States of America, Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, notification of birth registration, state file no. 132308, Francis Henry Conrad (21 August 1928), registration of vital statistics in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Johnstown.

<sup>79</sup> Saint Matthews Cathedral, Washington, D.C., certificate of marriage, Francis Henry Conrad and Gloria H. Davenport, 8 January 1955, digital image taken 8 January 2017 by Terry Kelly, privately held by Terry Kelly, [address for private use,] Bowie, Maryland, 20715.

<sup>80</sup> United States of America, Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, notification of birth registration (no number), Gloria Hortense Davenport (1933); Santa Fe, New Mexico.

<sup>81</sup> Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Health, death certificate, certificate no. 3290, state file no. 0534101, registrar no. 129, Francis Henry Conrad (2015); Division of Vital Statistics, Richmond.