

The Greeley Family History

- 1811 Feb. 3 Horace Greeley born in Amherst, NH to Zaccheus Greeley and Mary Woodburn on their small farm of 50 acres with a pond and a small orchard. Oldest of 5 surviving children, sickly, learned to read early. He was a fifth generation American. His ancestors came to America around 1640 from somewhere near the town of Nottingham, England. Andrew Greeley arrived in Salisbury in Essex County, MA.
- 1814 Lived at grandfather Woodburn's home in Londonderry a few weeks each winter and some months in the summer for three years to attend school.
- 1815 His uncle gave him his first book, The Columbian Orator.
- 1816-1819 Attended school in West Bedford, then in Amherst. Helped on farm, riding horse to plow in the summer.
- 1820 August Sheriff evicted family from the farm home and took their possessions for debts while Zaccheus Greeley escaped to Vermont to avoid imprisonment for debt. Attended school, helped on farm.
- 1821 January Greeley's family moved to Westhaven, VT where they lived for the next 5 years. His father was a laborer at a lumber camp for 50 cents a day.
- 1822 Went with father to Whitehall, NY to apply for work as a printer's apprentice, but was too young to be hired.
- 1824 New Year's Day resolved to drink no more distilled liquors – a pledge he kept.
- 1826 April Walked to East Poultney, VT where he learned about the printing trade as an apprentice at *The Northern Spectator*.
- 1830 When publication of *The Northern Spectator* ended, Greeley's apprenticeship ended. He left for his parents' home and found short printshop jobs in Jamestown and Lodi, NY.
- 1831 June Departed for Erie County, PA. Employed by *The Erie Gazette*.
- 1831 August Arrived in New York City.
- 1831 Nov. Employed by *The Evening Post*.
- 1832 January Employed by *The Spirit of the Times*.
- 1833 January Engaged by Francis V. Story in printing *The Morning Post*.
- 1834 March Started *The New-Yorker*, a non-partisan literary and news journal.
- 1835 Boarded at Dr. Sylvester Graham's vegetarian boarding house. Greeley had gone to live there after discovering that coffee made his hands tremble. He was intrigued by the health faddist's lectures. The meals there were conducted on the Graham Plan, which contained no alcohol, no meat of any sort, a minimum of salt, but plenty of bran bread and vegetables. "Here he met an enthusiastic boarder Mary Young Cheney, age 22, from Connecticut who was teaching at a girl's school nearby. She

was a talkative, animated girl with massive dark curls, extraordinarily large and intense eyes, and somewhat oriental features hinting of both sensitivity and a whim of iron. Horace was fascinated that she had read almost as many books as he had and shared his keen interest in current events.” (Archer) Mary left New York to accept a teaching position in Warrenton, NC.

- 1836 July 5 Married Mary Young Cheney, a teacher, in Warrenton, NC. She was born in Cornwall, CT in 1811. When they arrived home, they took lodgings at 124 Greenwich Street in New York, near the Battery, and for the next eight years moved several times.
- 1837 During economic Panic, his advice to those who can't find work: “Go West, young man, and grow with our country.”
- 1838 February Became editor of *The Jeffersonian* which espoused Whig causes. Continued commuting weekly by boat to New York City in order to continue writing and editing the New Yorker there.
- 1838 August Birth of first child, a son; died at birth.
- 1839 February Last issue of *The Jeffersonian*.
- 1939 Made trips to Vermont and by steamer from Buffalo to Detroit, Cleveland, Sandusky and Toledo.
- 1840 May Edited and published campaign weekly *The Log Cabin*, in Albany, NY, a weekly political paper supporting Whig candidate William Henry Harrison for President. He was invited to edit this campaign paper by Wm. H. Seward, Thurlow Weed and other leading men of the time.
- 1841 April 10 Watched as fugitive NY slave was successfully hidden by his VT community. Started the *New York Tribune*. Wanting to make the city a better place, the newspaper proclaimed itself “Anti-Slavery, Anti-Rum, Anti-Seduction, Anti-Grogshops.” It was also known as the “Great Moral Organ.”
- 1841 July Formed partnership with Thomas McElrath who contributed \$2,000 to become half owner and business manager.
- 1841 September *The New-Yorker* and *The Log Cabin* merged into *The Weekly Tribune*.
- 1842 Birth of Muriel Genevieve Greeley, a daughter; died in infancy.
- 1842 Greeley, a community founded by 300 members of the Sylvanian Society in Pike County, PA, was formed. H. Greeley invested \$12,000. He paid frequent visits to the wilderness community and took the failure of the scheme in 1845 much to heart.
- 1843 September Started *The Evening Tribune*
- 1844 Greeley moved uptown in New York City from 35 East 19th street to the Turtle Bay area on the East River near the Boston Post Road and 49th street (opposite the southern tip of Blackwells Island). The house, which Greeley referred to as “Castle Doleful,” was spacious and situated on 8 acres with a wooded dell. This was very isolated – about 2 miles from the thickly settled parts of New York City. Greeley took up farming on an acre patch.

- 1844 Mar. 22 Birth of son Arthur Young Harold Greeley, “Pickie,” to his family, had golden hair and blue eyes. He was affectionate, and his love of fun and his bubbling joyousness were endearing traits. Save when in his rages, he was beautiful. Horace was devoted to Pickie and was devastated when he died July 12, 1849 after being ill with cholera for 24 hours. They used homeopathic remedies.
- 1844 November Margaret Fuller joined the Greeley household and was hired by Greeley as “The Tribune’s” first woman editor.
- 1845 May “The Semi-Weekly Tribune” issued.
- 1847 November Birth of daughter Mary Inez Greeley; died of dysentery at 6 months in 1848.
- 1848 November Elected to the 30th Congress from NY for one session.
- 1848 Nov. 17 Birth of daughter Ida Lillian Greeley, “La Dame Chatelaine;” died on April 11, 1882. (See her marriage date in 1875 for a list of her children.)
- 1850 January First president of NY Typographical Union #6
- 1850 Bought for \$7,000 a two and one half story house built of brick and painted brown on 19th Street hal. They moved here because Mrs. Greeley’s passion was for something different. They owned this property until 1862.
- 1850 Summer It is reported that Greeley and his family lived in a small house on the Bailey estate alongside Titicus Road (now Route 116) in the Town of North Salem. (Scharf, Vol. 2, p. 515 & info from Town of North Salem)
- 1850s The Tribune employed 14 local reporters, 20 American correspondents and 18 foreign correspondents and had a national circulation of more than 250,000.
- 1851 Birth of son Raphael Uhland Greeley; died February 28, 1857 of croup.
- 1851 April 11 Greeley set sail on his first trip to Europe on the Baltic to serve as a juror for the technology exhibit at Crystal Palace Exposition in London. The exposition celebrated Free Trade, but Greeley was a protectionist. Visited Continent for 2 months.
- 1851 June & July Visited the continent – Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium and France
- 1851 Greeley purchased a 25 acre farm in Chappaqua.
- 1851 Greeley supports John Stevens and the Industrial Home Association and founded the planned community called Mt. Vernon on farmland in Westchester County (Picturing our Past p. 172-3)
- 1853 The “Crystal Palace” opens. It was planned by Greeley as an American exhibition of arts and in New York City (6th Avenue between 40th & 42nd Sts.) P.T. Barnum purchased one hundred shares of stock and agrees to serve as a director. The exhibition opens in July 1853.
- 1853 Completed purchasing property bringing the farm to 78 acres. Begins to build the “House in the Woods.” The long driveway is now Senter Street. Mrs. Greeley insisted that any rural location must include “1. A peerless spring of pure, soft, living water; 2. A cascade or brawling brook; 3. Woods largely composed of evergreens.”
- 1854 The family moves into “The House in the Woods” in 1854.

- 1854 Autumn Mary Greeley left with Ida and Raphael for nearly 2 years in Europe.
- 1854 Nov. 11 Wrote lengthy private letter to Governor Seward withdrawing from Seward-Weed-Greeley partnership.
- 1855 April Joins family in London for his longest vacation and then accompanies them to Paris and Switzerland before leaving them in August to return home.
- 1855 June While in Paris, Greeley was arrested and jailed on writ sworn out by sculptor of statue broken at the New York exposition.
- 1855 August Visits his father, brother and sisters in PA after his mother's death at age 68.
- 1855 September Attended Republican convention in Syracuse.
- 1855 December Goes to Washington for several months to cover election of Speaker of House.
- 1857 Built stone and concrete barn, one of the first concrete structures in the country at a cost of \$6,000. His daughter, Gabrielle, remodeled the barn in 1892 as her residence. After her death in 1937, her son-in-law and family remained there until 1954.
- 1857 February 10 Raphael Uhland Greeley dies of croup at age 6. Greeley was devastated by this loss.
- 1857 March 26 Birth of daughter Gabrielle Rosamond Greeley, "Tourbillon". She died March 3, 1937. (See her marriage in 1891 for a list of her children.)
- 1860 May Delegate to Republican Party Convention in Chicago – Lincoln nominated for Presidency. Greeley vigorously opposed Seward, whose nomination had been a foregone conclusion, and was the decisive factor that gave the nomination to Lincoln.
- 1860 November 9 Opposed coercion of the cotton states
- 1860 Dec. 19, 22 Opposed the Weed & Crittenden Compromise
- 1861 February 4 Seated with platform party at Lincoln's inauguration and supported his speech in the Tribune. Lost nomination for U.S. Senate
- 1862 August 19 Greeley's historic appeal for Emancipation, addressed through the columns of the Tribune to Lincoln in the "Prayer of Twenty Millions"
- 1863 July Tribune building attacked by draft riot mob. Abram Quinby tells story of mob threatening Mrs. Greeley at "House in the Woods" in Chappaqua. It is quoted that he and John Clark, the Greeley's Scotch gardener, put a 50 lb. kg. of gunpowder and 900 feet of fuse under the Greeley House (the House in the Woods) and laid three strings of fuse from the house, as Mother Greeley would rather have the house blown up than have it sacked by the rioters.
- 1864 November 8 Presidential elector-at-large
- 1864 August Bought present-day "Greeley House" for \$1,401. It stood on just under one half acre from George E. Sands (age 14-21), son of Caleb Sands and Betsey Sands, Caleb's widow. "Refitted" the house and added portion on the uphill side. The addition includes the Music Room and Butler's Pantry on the first floor. The Family Parlor and Maid's Room were added to the second floor. At this time the location of the stairs from the first floor to the second floor was relocated. (In the property was deeded to Enos Marshall for \$225 by Robert Haviland, who owned the adjacent property including the Lutheran Church. The original portion of the

house was built between 1851-1854.) Greeley continued to spend time at “The House in the Woods”.

- 1865 April 11 Advocated universal amnesty. Later called “Universal Amnesty (for Southern rebels after the Civil War) and Impartial Suffrage” (for whites and blacks alike).
- 1865 December 8 Mary Greeley to Cuba to recover from consumption
- 1866 September 3 Delegate to Loyalist Convention in Philadelphia
- 1867 May 13 Signed bail bond for Jefferson Davis in Virginia. He was freed from prison.
- 1867 Delegate-at-Large to NY State Constitutional Convention from June 4, 1867-Feb. 28, 1868.
- 1867 December 4 Declined Mission to Austria.
- 1869 Greeley and a group of New York friends decided to establish a planned community called Union Colony in Colorado as an alternative to industrial capitalism and eastern cities. The Colony had 500 homes within a year and 2,000 inhabitants by 1879. It became a model for settling the West and maintaining public control over water. Greeley states “I say to all who are in want of work, Go West! But what can you do? Cook? Plow? Mow? Master new skills. Work Hard. Then go take up your family, and Go West.”
- 1869 November 2 Defeated as candidate for Comptroller of New York State.
- 1870 Summer – Dec Mary and Ida Greeley visited the Isle of Wright off the coast of England. Gabrielle was attending a convent school north of New York City.
- 1870 October Greeley made one visit to Union Colony, which was now called Greeley, Colorado. Greeley purchased two lots in the new town.
- 1870 November 8 Defeated in Congressional election. Greeley tried to raise clover, rye, beets, carrots and turnips. He prided himself on his corn and oats as well as his apple orchard.
- 1871 Construction began on a more elaborate French 2nd Empire style home, “The Side Hill House.” Occupied in fall of 1872 by daughters, Gabrielle and Ida.
- 1871 – Spring 1872 Mary, Ida & Gabrielle in Europe. They return after they learn Horace is a candidate for President.
- 1872 May 31 Nominated for Presidency in Cincinnati by Liberal Republicans and Democratic Party in Baltimore.
- 1872 May 15 Resigned his duties as editor of the Tribune to travel and campaign vigorously in August through September in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York.
- 1872 July 13 Picnic for 400 supporters in Chappaqua.
- 1872 October 30 Death of his wife, Mary Young Cheney Greeley, at 61 after years of illness. Her daughter Gabrielle referred to a severe cough and depression. Mrs. Greeley died at the home of Alvin Johnson, Greeley’s friend and publisher, at West 57th Street in New York.
- 1872 November 5 Greeley was defeated in the Presidential election by Ulysses S. Grant. He carried only 6 of 32 states; Grant 3,597,070 to Greeley 2,834,079.

- 1872 November 6 Goes back to “The Tribune” but finds that he no longer has editorial control of the paper and he returns home. He begins to collapse, mentally and physically.
- 1872 Nov. 13 Greeley creates informal trust for children, Alvin Johnson, trustee. He sold his six Tribune Shares to Alvin Johnson for \$30,000, intending that to go to his daughters. He also asked John R. Stuart, a Tarrytown friend, to sell the Chappaqua farm (didn’t), and sold Johnson 80 acres of woodland in New York; a 500 acre farm in Buckingham County, VA; 45 acres of land in Greeley, CO; and ten acres in Madison, CT Despite selling off his land and stocks, Greeley had little net worth except on paper as he approached the end. See December 14, 1877.
- 1872 Nov. 20 Removed to Dr. John Choate’s home and sanatorium in Pleasantville, NY (now on the campus of Pace University), to be closer to his daughters in Chappaqua.
- 1872 Nov. 29 Suffered major health breakdown. Horace Greeley died at Dr. Choate’s home. Mr. Greeley was 61. Ida then 24 and Gabrielle, 15.
- 1872 Dec. 5 Horace Greeley’s funeral - very large attendance – at the Church of the Divine Paternity at the corner of 5th and 45th Streets. Buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, NY. Survived by Ida, 24, and Gabrielle, 15.
- 1872 Dec. Ida signed an agreement to support Gabrielle until she reached the age of 21. Greeley given ½ of his property to Ida, “one half to be used at her own discretion in the education and support of her sister Gabrielle.”
- 1873 Greeley’s sister, Esther Greeley Cleveland (wife of John F. Cleveland, a *Tribune* editor) and her 2 daughters, Marguerite and Cecilia, spend the summer with the Greeley daughters in the Greeley House. Cecilia’s journal, published in 1873, provides the best description we have of the Greeley House in that era.
- 1873 Ida and Gabrielle move into the “Side Hill House.”
- 1875 May 1 Ida Lillian Greeley (b. 11/17/1848, d. 4/11/1882), age 27, married Col. Nicholas Smith (b. ___/___/1836, d. 8/15/1919 Fort Salonga, NY) in New York City. They lived in Philadelphia and then later in Brooklyn. She died April 11, 1882.

Their children:

- Horace Greeley Smith Sr, MD (b. 4/6/1877, d. 1950) – lived in Philadelphia and then later in Brooklyn, at age 19 dropped “Smith” and became a doctor. He was associated with the NYC Health Dept. They had one child.
 - Horace Greeley Jr., MD (b. ___/___/1900, d. ___/___/1986) also a doctor who lived in Brooklyn who was married twice:
 1. Beatrice Tessendorf (b. ___/___/___, d. ___/___/___) in 1930 – They had two children:
 - Horace Judson Greeley (b. 8/15/1935, d 5/___/2003)
 - Nixola Beatrice Greeley (b. 1/24/ 1934)
 2. Jeanne W _____ Greeley (b. ___/___/___) in ___/___/____. They had two children. (After Horace Greeley Jr., MD’s death , Jeanne W. Greeley married _____.) She continues to live and practice medicine with her son in Brooklyn.

- Grant Horace Nicholas Greeley, MD (b.9/17/1953, d.5/3/2013), who married Maryann Murcott (b. ___/___/___) on 6/25/1977. They had two children:
 - Alexander Horace Greeley (b. 9/11/1986), age 26, married Katherine Marie Brown, Church of the Guardian Angel in Manhattan August 3, 2013.
 - Kristen Jennifer Greeley (b. 5/26/1988)
- Norman Horace Edward Greeley, MD (b. 2/14/1956) who married twice:
 1. Sathis Rivas (b. ___/___/___) in 1980. They had two children:
 - Horace Timothy Greeley (b. 12/24/1986)
 - Matthew Nicholas Greeley (b. 5/29/1988)
 2. Micha Choy (b. ___/___/___) in _____.
- Nixola Greeley Smith, (b. 4/5/1880, d.3/9/1919), married Andrew W. Ford on 4/1/1910 in Greenwich, CT. They had no children. They lived at 130 W 57th St., NYC and later in Orange, NJ. She died at 38 following an operation for an acute appendicitis. She was a staff writer for the NY Evening World.
- Ida Gabrielle Smith (b.3/9/1882, d.1960s – married Louis F. Geissler, (1923-1980) Chair. of Bd. of RCA, on Dec. 23, 1915 in Orange, NJ. They lived in NY and Fort Salonga, NY. Ida Gabrielle Smith Geissler was known as “Belle Mere” by her grandchildren. They had one son:
 - Louis Geissler, Jr, who married Carolyn Jane Shanks in (war time) _____. They had four children:
 - Daughter who died at age 5 in 1950
 - Frederick Greeley Geissler who died in the 1990s
 - Edwin Nicholas Geissler (b. ___/___/___) (twin) lives in Red Hook, NY
 - Elizabeth Geissler (. ___/___/___) (twin) lives in Penbroke, Mass.

- 1876 April 14 “The House in the Woods” burns. It had been occupied until the Tuesday before by Ida & Nicholas Smith. A scrubbing woman had left embers in the fireplace, which rolled out and started a fire.
- 1877 Dec 14 Greeley’s estate was settled. After settling debts and expenses, the estate of \$206,084.25 had become an estate of \$2,589.28.
- 1882 April 11 Ida Greeley Smith dies of diphtheria. She was 33.
- 1889 May 30 Dedication of Greeley’s monument at his family plot in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, NY.
- 1890 April 3 “The Side Hill House” burns. Gabrielle moves to tenant house, near site of present New Castle Town Hall.
- 1891 April 23 Gabrielle Rosamond Greeley (b. 3/26/1857, d. 3/5/1937), age 33, married Rev. Dr. Frank Montrose Clendenin (b. 9/17/1853, d. 8/19/1930). Their children:
- Gabriel (b. 1892) still born;

- Miriam (b. 1892/3, died in infancy;
- Gabrielle (b. 1893, d. 8/4/1920 – married Capt. Edward Canning Muhlenbruch Stahl October 22, 1918. They had one son:
 - Frank Canning Greeley Stahl (b. 11/21/1919, d. 9/20/2005 in Germany) who married Hanna Kreisel (m. 7/18/1956). They had one daughter:
 - Gabrielle Stahl (b. 12/23/1961) who married Jan Bertheau (5/11/1996). They had one son:
 - Frederic Charles Greeley Bertheau (b. 7/21/1999)
- Muriel (b. 1898, d. 10/23/1903 of polio). (The Church of St. Mary the Virgin was built as a memorial to Muriel.)

- 1892 Greeley’s barn is converted to Rehoboth by Ralph Adams Cram, architect for the residence of Gabrielle Greeley Clendenin and her husband, Dr. Frank Clendenin. Rehoboth comes from the 26th chapter of the Book of Genesis and is roughly translated from the Hebrew as “broad place” or “room.” Gabrielle named her home Rehoboth because of her father and mother’s chief requirements when they purchased their farm in Chappaqua was “a peerless spring of purse, oft water.”
- 1914 Feb. 3 Unveiling of Greeley statue by Wm. Ordway Partridge. Groundbreaking took place 2/3/1911 on 100th anniversary of his birth.
- 1926 Apr. 19 Greeley House sold by Gabrielle G. Clendenin.
- 1937 Mar. 5 Gabrielle Greeley Clendenin dies.

Cecilia Cleveland, daughter of Horace Greeley’s sister Esther, is the author of The Story of A Summer; or, Journal Leaves from Chappaqua 1874. It is a diary of her summer spent at the Horace Greeley House.



