

Anna Gale Lindley (Mrs. Clarkson Lindley) Minnesota Ancestor

Anna Gale was born in Minneapolis in 1868. She was the daughter of Samuel Chester Gale (1827-1916) and Susan Damon of Worcester County, Massachusetts. Samuel and Susan moved to Minneapolis in 1857. They had five children, Edward, Alice, Anna, Marion and Charles. Samuel was a lawyer in 1870, but by the 1880 census he was a "Real Estate and Insurance Broker." He was active in civic and church affairs with "a fine singing voice that often joined in the choir of Plymouth Congregational Church."

Anna graduated from Central High in 1884 -one of only 17 students in her graduating class at the new high school. She graduated from Smith College in 1889. After her graduation, she taught public school in Minneapolis. At age 23 in 1891, her passport application described her as 5'2" with light brown hair and grayish brown eyes.



Figure 1 Gale residence on Fourth Street and Marquette Avenue, where Anna grew up Courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

Anna married Clarkson Lindley in December 1895. Clarkson was the son of Dr. A. H. and Eliza Lindley, who had moved to Minnesota from their native North Carolina at the outbreak of the Civil War, when Clarkson was four years old. Dr. Lindley established a practice in Minneapolis, and the family became prominent in the Minneapolis Society of Friends.



Figure 2 Clarkson, daughters Alice and Charlotte, and Anna Lindley visit Cairo aboard the *Empress of France*, 1925. Courtesy Hennepin County Library.

After their wedding, Anna and Clarkson "wintered abroad, visiting Egypt before their return." They had daughters Ella, Alice, and Charlotte and son Alfred. Years later, they returned with daughters Alice and Charlotte, pictured at left.

Clarkson was one of the founding officers of the Minneapolis Trust Company when it was organized in 1888, and served as Secretary and Treasurer. When the company began, it executed trusts and made loans on city mortgages, later entering the farm mortgage market and creating a bond division. Minneapolis Trust merged with First National Bank in 1932.

In 1900, Anna and Clarkson lived with Clarkson's parents on Stevens Ave with their two daughters and three servants. By 1910, while they lived at the same address, Clarkson was head of household. His mother Eliza still lived with them. By 1930, both parents were deceased and their eldest child Ella had moved but Alice, Charlotte and Alfred still lived at home with three servants and a chauffeur. Clarkson died in 1935.

Anna joined the NSCDA-MN in 1911 and was the historian for Colonial Dames - Minnesota from 1920-1923. In her 1921 report, she wrote:

Some future historian of the Society reading of the contributions of the year would obtain a sidelight on three significant historical facts - the Pilgrim Tercentenary, the distress in Europe following the grea war, and the appalling Chinese famine.

The Dames donated to organizations addressing all three. Anna's sister Alice was also a Dame, and served as historian in 1925. Daughters Ella Lindley Burton and Charlotte Lindley Wurtele were also members of the NSCDA-MN.



Figure 3 Anna in 1927, courtesy Hennepin County Library

Anna was also a founding member of the Peripatetics Club of Minneapolis, a women's study group, along with fellow dame Leonora Christian. Anna was a member for fifty years, and her granddaughter Mary Wurtele Vaughn was president of the club during its centennial in 1990. Mary, daughter of Anna's daughter Charlotte, was also a member of NSCDA-MN.

Both Anna and Mary served as presidents of Stevens Square. The organization was founded in 1881 to help children orphaned by the typhoid epidemic, and was one of the first charities in Minneapolis. Within five years, it also provided a home for elderly women. In 1935, the organization began focusing exclusively on the elderly population. It continued operating until 2004.

In that year, it closed its facility and became a grantmaking operation.

Son Alfred, an athlete and adventurer, died in a private plane crash in Nebraska in 1951 at the age of 47. He had met his wife-to-be Grace Carter while both were trying out for the US Olympic Ski Teams (both made it) and they had two children, including Clarkson Lindley (1942-2018), who became the husband of another Minnesota Dame, Nancy Everson Lindley.

Anna died in 1959 at the age of 91. In her obituary she was listed as a founder of the Woman's Club of Minneapolis and the Stevens Square home for aged women. She was a board member and longtime fan of the Minneapolis Symphony and supporter of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. She was also involved with the Minnesota Historical Society.

Colonial Ancestor

Anna was descended from Isaac Gale of Massachusetts (1708-1793). He was born in Watertown, Massachusetts and served in the Massachusetts militia. He was a lieutenant in the expedition for the relief of Fort William Henry in 1757, the events of which were featured in James Fenimore Cooper's "Last of the Mohicans." The company was en route to the fort when they learned of its surrender, and halted. They therefore escaped massacre. He married Judith Sawyer and Anna is descended from their eldest son Isaac. He is the ancestor of six Minnesota dames, including Anna, her daughters Ella and Charlotte, sister Alice, Alice's daughter Helen, and granddaughter Mary.

Resources

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