

# James and Nancy Galbreath

It is unusual in genealogical research to find contemporary discussions of family drama, but I was fortunate (through the good offices of Cousin Charles Knighton) to be introduced to the handwritten journal of George Carter Miller, and later the diary of his son John Bonnel Miller. And through these sources the Galbreaths have gained dimension.

About 1835 James Galbreath opened a blacksmith shop on 7<sup>th</sup> St in Cincinnati, and across the street was George Carter Miller, who built wagons as well as fancy coaches and carriages. An employee in Miller's house was Nancy Cole, who helped to keep house and care for the children. She was born about 1814 in Cincinnati and may have been an orphan, though it was very common for teenagers to be placed in another household for a formal or informal apprenticeship. On Nov 27 1836 she married James Galbreath.

The Galbreaths had two children; Mary Catherine born in 1837 and Robert Harvey born in 1844. James was left very little in his father's 1857 will because he left home and didn't stay to work for his father (in Clermont Co.)

James Galbreath died in 1858 after a fall from the roof of his house.

Mary Catherine Galbreath's life and her marriages are discussed elsewhere.

Robert Harvey Galbreath may have had his first job with the Duhme Company<sup>1</sup>, then an up-and-coming manufacturer of silver flatware. In an 1861 City Directory the 17-year-old is described as being a salesman at the southwest corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Walnut, the location of the

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<sup>1</sup> Duhme & Co. was the largest, most productive and successful firm in the history of Cincinnati's silver industry. It and its successor firms operated for over 80 years, and in the last half of the 19th century, Duhme & Co. was a serious competitor of the eastern firms of Tiffany & Co., Gorham Mfg Co., Whiting Mfg Co., and others.

Duhme Company. His position improved when in 1864 his sister Mary Catherine married his employer Herman G Duhme.

In 1865 Galbreath married Emily J Smith, and the following year they had a daughter, Nellie. Sadly the child died at the age of 2 of bronchitis, and they had no other children.

About 1868 Herman took Robert Galbreath in as a partner. Galbreath maintained partnerships in the firm through bankruptcy and reorganizations, until in 1905 he moved to New York, there working for Tiffany & Co. until his 1915 death.

Last will and testament of Nancy Cole Galbreath; original in Cincinnati court house; copied Dec 1981 or Jan 1982 by Charles Knighton and Martha Clarke (a Cincinnati genealogical researcher).

Know all men that I, Nancy Galbreath of Clifton, Hamilton County, Ohio, being of lawful age and of sound and disposing mind and memory, do make, publish and declare this my last will and testament.

1 After payment of all my just debts I give, devise and bequeath my entire estate to my daughter Mary C. Duhme.

2 In case of the decease of my said daughter before my death, I give, devise and bequeath my entire estate to my granddaughter Charlotte Duhme.

3 I have made no provision in this my will for my son Robert H. Galbreath or my grandchildren Claribel Ives and Albert Duhme because my said son has sufficient means and I have made a gift of a home to said Claribel Ives by deed and said Albert Duhme will when he arrives at the age of majority come into possession of a very considerable estate by inheritance from his father Herman Duhme Sr.

4 It is my will that in case of all my said heirs dying without leaving children surviving, my entire estate shall descend to members of my family and of my blood; in no event shall any portion of my estate pass to either Herman Duhme or Frank Duhme half brothers of Charlotte Duhme.

5 I nominate and appoint my daughter Mary C. Duhme sole executrix of this my last will and testament and direct that no bond be required of her.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of June 1895.

(signed) Nancy Galbreath

Subscribed and acknowledged as her last will and testament by the saids Nancy Galbreath in our presence and by us subscribed as witnesses at her request, in her presence, and in the presence of each other on the day last written above.

L. Eleanor Hosea  
Emma R. Loveland  
Wm G Hosea

Nancy Cole Galbreath lived on, moving by 1878 from her 7<sup>th</sup> Street home to stay with her daughter and son-in-law.

She died November 9<sup>th</sup>, 1896.

Cincinnati [OH] Enquirer,  
Cincinnati Historical Society  
SX631 Vol 1 p 21 and p. 62, Feb  
10, 1896 Obituary of Nancy  
Galbreath. Galbreath - on  
Monday, 1:30 pm, Mrs. Nancy  
Galbreath, in the 83rd year of her  
age. Funeral at the residence of  
her daughter, Mrs. Mary C.  
Duhme, Resor Ave, Clifton,  
Wednesday, November 11, at 2  
pm. Burial private.