

4.9 John and Emma Maytrott



Alpen Bill

Leatherwood Dahlias

Maggie Valley/Waynesville, North Carolina

John 13: 34-35

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John Maytrott's Unfermented Grape Juice

John Maytrott (1848-1921), Emma Bowman (1855-1955)



My great grandmother was Emma (Bowman) Maytrott, who lived to be 100 years of age in the years before antibiotics and modern medicine! I got to know her and took pictures of her with my Brownie camera in the first 10 years of my life. She and her husband John were both born in Germantown in Philadelphia, but they moved to New Jersey where they built a large Victorian house (pictured on a subsequent page) and planted a grape vineyard in about 1887. Emma kept busy with

crocheting, knitting, and tatting, to the point that at the end of her life, she actually had NO fingerprints!

Emma's childhood was a sad one. Her mother was Elizabeth Goodfellow who died in 1862, and her father Shadrack Howard Bowman died in 1863. By the age of 8, Emma had lost both of her parents. Her father Howard served in the Pennsylvania Volunteers, who fought in the Battle of Gettysburg (July, 1863). He died on Sep 16 of that year in a Philadelphia hospital from an "abdominal abscess" wound, possibly from this famous battle.

Elizabeth Goodfellow's father was John Goodfellow, probably born in England, and her mother was Rachael Nice, who died in about 1868. Emma met her husband John Maytrott and married him at the age of 19 in 1875. Meanwhile, Emma's grandfather John Goodfellow provided the young couple with a place to live. In two Census Reports of 1870, after the death of his wife Rachael Nice, we find John Goodfellow age 74 together with Emma Bowman, age 14 before her birthday in one census, and age 15 after her birthday in a second census of 1870. Then in the 1880 Census Report, an 84 year-old John Goodfellow was head of the house with John Maytrott, his wife Emma B. Maytrott, and their two young children Meta E. age 2 and Emma L. age 8 months. I must say, it was really NICE for Emma Bowman and John Maytrott to have a GOODFELLOW like John around to help them get started in their life together!

Difficulties continued for John and Emma, with the loss of 4 of their 6 children, in part due to a smallpox epidemic in Germantown and a diphtheria epidemic in both Germantown and Vineland. Only Laura, born in Germantown, and Warren (my grandfather), born in Vineland, survived childhood. As I said, the family moved to Vineland in about 1887, where John planted the vineyard. In later years, his son Warren converted the vineyard to a dahlia farm that in the 1930s would become the largest dahlia farm in the world.

Ironically, the Maytrotts were friends with the now-grape-juice-famous Welsh family, attending the Methodist Church in Vineland together. In my later years of life, I was able to acquire “Maytrott Unfermented Grape Juice” bottles, pictured on the next page, emphasizing that John and Emma, like the Welshes, were staunch Methodists. They were interested in producing GRAPE JUICE, not alcoholic beverages!



John, Emma, and family in front of their new Victorian home in Vineland, New Jersey!



J.M.&Co grapes



Maytrott grape juice bottle

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