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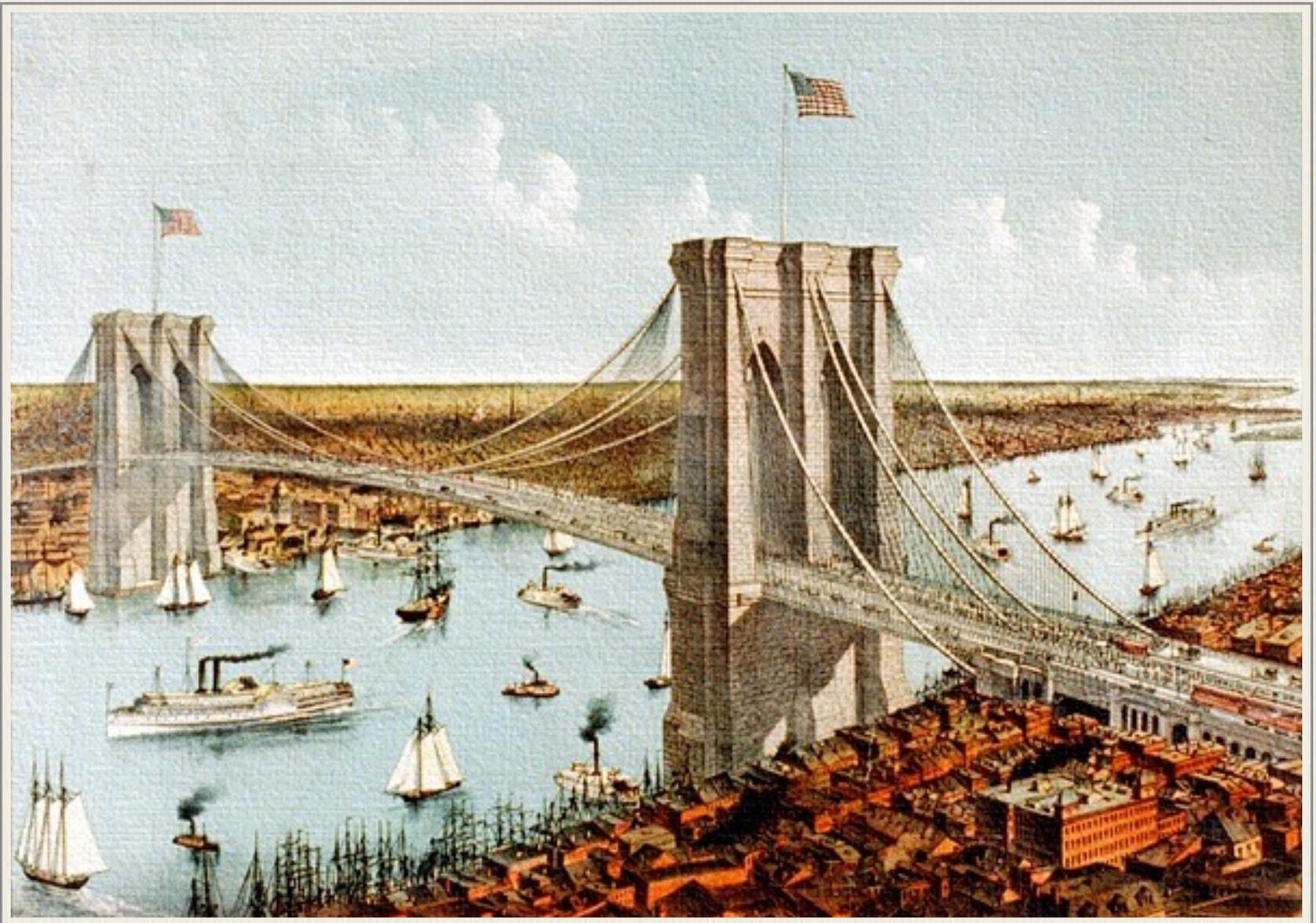
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Willow Glen Publishing



# Brooklyn Roots



**Brooklyn Roots** *My branch of the Falkenburg family lived in Little Egg Harbor and Tuckerton until about 1870. Between 1870 and 1880, my great-grandfather Solomon Falkenburg moved the family to Brooklyn, New York. Solomon was a sea captain involved in maritime commerce along the eastern seaboard. New York was the center for commerce and an ideal place for the family to relocate. This chapter explores the lives of Solomon and Annie Falkinburg, along with their children as they set up a new life in New York.*

Sometime between 1870 and 1880 the Solomon Falkenburg family moved from Tuckerton, New Jersey to Brooklyn, New York—a major center for maritime trade. The image below depicts the City of Brooklyn as drawn by Charles Richard Parsons and published in 1879 by Currier & Ives. [6.1] The upper left of the image shows Wallabout Bay and the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Commercial merchant vessels docked along the area from Brooklyn Heights (south of the Brooklyn pier of the Great Bridge) to Red Hook and Gawanus Bay (at the right and upper right of the picture). It is most likely that this is the area from which Solomon Falkenburg sailed.



At the time this lithograph was published, Brooklyn was a separate city, politically independent from the oft corrupt, Tammany-dominated New York. The East River Bridge (later to be called the Brooklyn Bridge) was an ambitious project launched by John Augustus Roebling in 1869 and completed by Roebling's son Washington in 1883. The great suspension bridge led to closer articulation between the cities of New York and Brooklyn. In 1898, the modern City of New

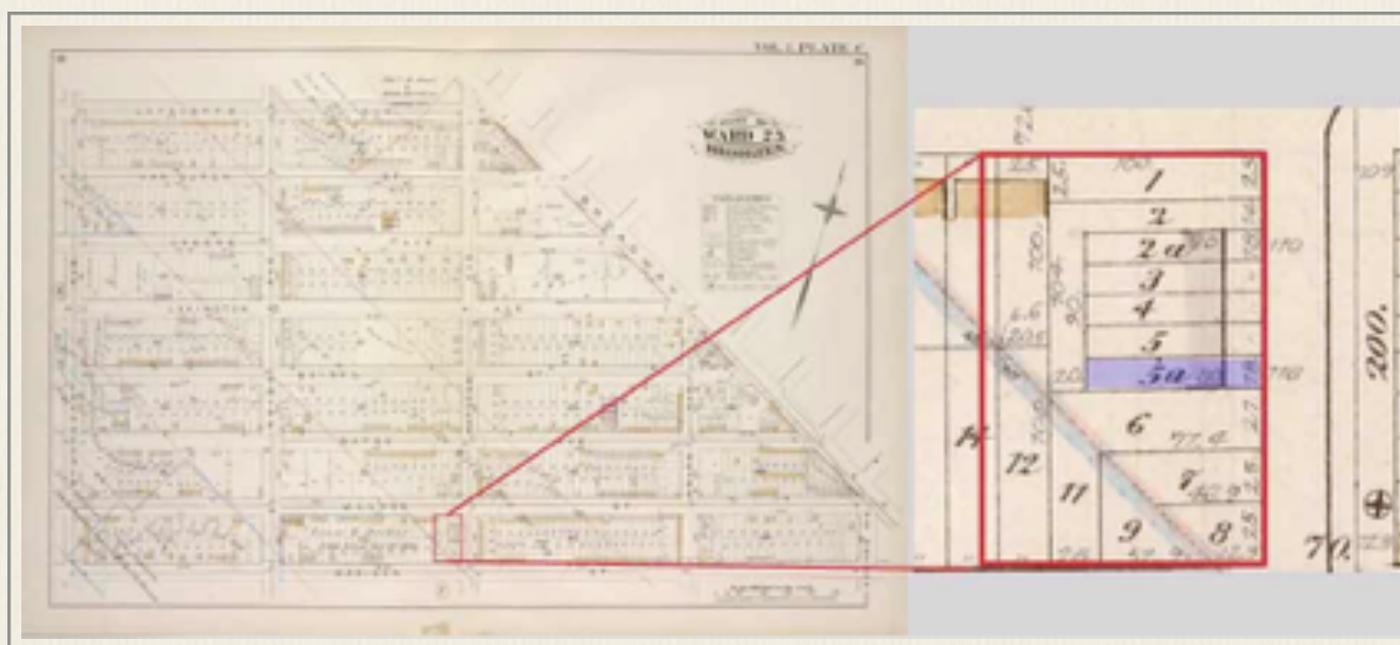
York was born through the consolidation of Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens County, the Bronx, and Richmond County (Staten Island) forming the five boroughs of a great new city.

Solomon Falkenburg is listed in Lain's 1879-80 Brooklyn Directory [6.2] as shipmaster. The family home was located at 116 Patchen Ave. This would have been about four miles to the east of the waterfront. The home was just west of Broadway and is located in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood. An 1880 map of Ward 23 [6.3] shows the location within a row of stone or brick houses on the west side of Patchen Ave. between Madison and Monroe. The Falkenburg residence is colored light blue in the map below.

FALKENBERGH CAROLINE WIG. ROBERT H 227 FLOYD
FALKENBURG Solomon shipmaster h 116 Patchen av
FALKENMAVER Charles liquors 239 Montrose av

*Transcript of Lain's Brooklyn Directory 1879-80*

The home was in the Stuyvesant Heights neighborhood, a residential community which was developed between 1870 and 1920. My great-grandparents moved to this neighborhood in the late 1870s, and were likely among the first residents. The grid of streets shown in this 1880 map were originally laid out in 1839. "The people who brought these houses were generally upper middle class families mostly lawyers, shopkeepers and merchants of German and Irish descent with a sprinkling of English. There were also a few professionals. A contemporary de-



*Location of Solomon Falkenburg Residence 1879*

scription calls it a very well kept residential neighborhood, typical of the general description of Brooklyn as a town of homes and churches" [6.4]. During the depression years of the 1930s there was an ethnic shift in the neighborhood, transforming Bed-Sty into the second largest black community in New York City. Today, it is a center of African American culture, and considerable effort is underway to restore many historic residences. According to trulia.com, the current home that sits at 116 Patchen Ave. is not the one in which my great-grandparents lived. While old, the current home was built in 1899.

<b><i>The family of Captain Solomon Falkenburg</i></b>	
Solomon Falkenburg b. 12 JAN 1842 (Tuckerton, NJ) d. 20 AUG 1887 m.(~1864) Ann Nancy Lippincott b. 1843; d. 21 JAN 1933 (Hollis, NY).	
M	(1) Samuel L. Falkenburg <sup>a</sup> b. 25 NOV 1861; d. 5 MAY 1874 (age 12)
F	(2) Aseneth Cordelia Falkenburg b. 16 APR 1867; d. 6 APR 1948; m. Herbert W. Twiddy
M	(3) George Harrison Falkenburg II b. 17 NOV 1869; d. 24 MAR 1906; m. Mary Henrietta Jay (b. 21 AUG 1816; d. 23 DEC 1961)
M	(4) Leo W. Falkenburg <sup>b</sup> b. 1 NOV 1870
F	(5) Mary Maronda Falkenburg b. 11 FEB 1872; d. 18 OCT 1947; m. John Walker
M	(6) Ernest Solomon Falkenburg b. 29 JAN 1875; d/ 28 SEP 1957; m1 m2
M	(7) Samuel Edgar Falkenburg b. 24 DEC 1876 m. Julite Robbins 27 JUN 1900; d. 1 JAN 1960.
F	(8) Florence Powers Falkenburg b. NOV 1843 d. 24 DEC 1904

### **Notes for this table:**

*Unless otherwise noted, the data in this table is based on [hand-written notes made by Wilma Falkenburg](#), wife of George H. Falkenburg III (son of George H. Falkenburg II and grandson of Solomon and Annie Falkenburg)*

**Samuel L. Falkenburg<sup>a</sup>:** [usgenweb archives Greenwood Cemetery](#)

**Leo W. Falkenburg<sup>b</sup>:** *Data from "The Descendants of William Cranmer of Elizabethtown, Nj" by Jean Shropshire Harris and Murry Thomas Harris, published in 1997, p. 226 lists the children of Ann/Nancy Lippincott and Solomon Falkinburg. This list includes a son Leo W. born 1 NOV 1870 in Tuckerton, Nj. No record of Leo appears in the handwritten records of Wilma Falkenburg. New Jersey Births and Christenings, 1660-1980 lists the birth of Geo. W. Falkinburgh ( 1 NOV 1870 ) to Sol and Nansey Falkinburgh. In the 1910 Census one of the questions in the enumeration asks how many children did you have (8) and how many are surviving today (4). That fact lends credence to the data for Leo reported in the Harris book. Perhaps Leo died in delivery or shortly thereafter. I find no cemetery listings for Leo, however.*

The 1880 Census shows a growing Falkenburg family. The youngest child, Samuel is listed as 3 years old, and his birthplace is given as New Jersey. This means that we can further target the move of the family to between 1876 and 1879. Samuel's baby picture is shown at the right. Ann Lippincott is referred to as Annie in this census, as she is in all subsequent ones. Solomon was my great-grandfather and Samuel was my grandfather. The Samuel L. listed in the 1870 US Census is not the Samuel listed here. Samuel L. died as a young boy. This Samuel is Samuel Edgar. Solomon (jr.) listed here is Ernest Solomon Falkenburg, born 29 JAN 1875. According to the record, Elizabeth Lippincott lives with her sister Annie and brother-in-law Solomon. This is likely Annie's sister Sarah Elizabeth who appears in the 1870 census.



*Baby Picture of  
Samuel Edgar Falkenburg*

116	379 sub	Falkenburg Solomon	M 33		1	New Jersey	N.J.	N.J.
		— Annie	W 30	Wife	1	New Jersey	N.J.	N.J.
		— Cordelia	W 13	Daughter	1	New Jersey	N.J.	N.J.
		— George	M 10	Son	1	New Jersey	N.J.	N.J.
		— Mary	W 8	Daughter	1	New Jersey	N.J.	N.J.
		— Solomon	M 5	Son	1	New Jersey	N.J.	N.J.
		— Samuel	M 3	Son	1	New Jersey	N.J.	N.J.
		Lippincott Elizabeth	W 2	Sister-in-law	1	New Jersey	N.J.	N.J.

*Solomon Falkenburg Family, 1880 U.S. Census, Brooklyn NY*

## Ship Master: The Schooner William H. Jones

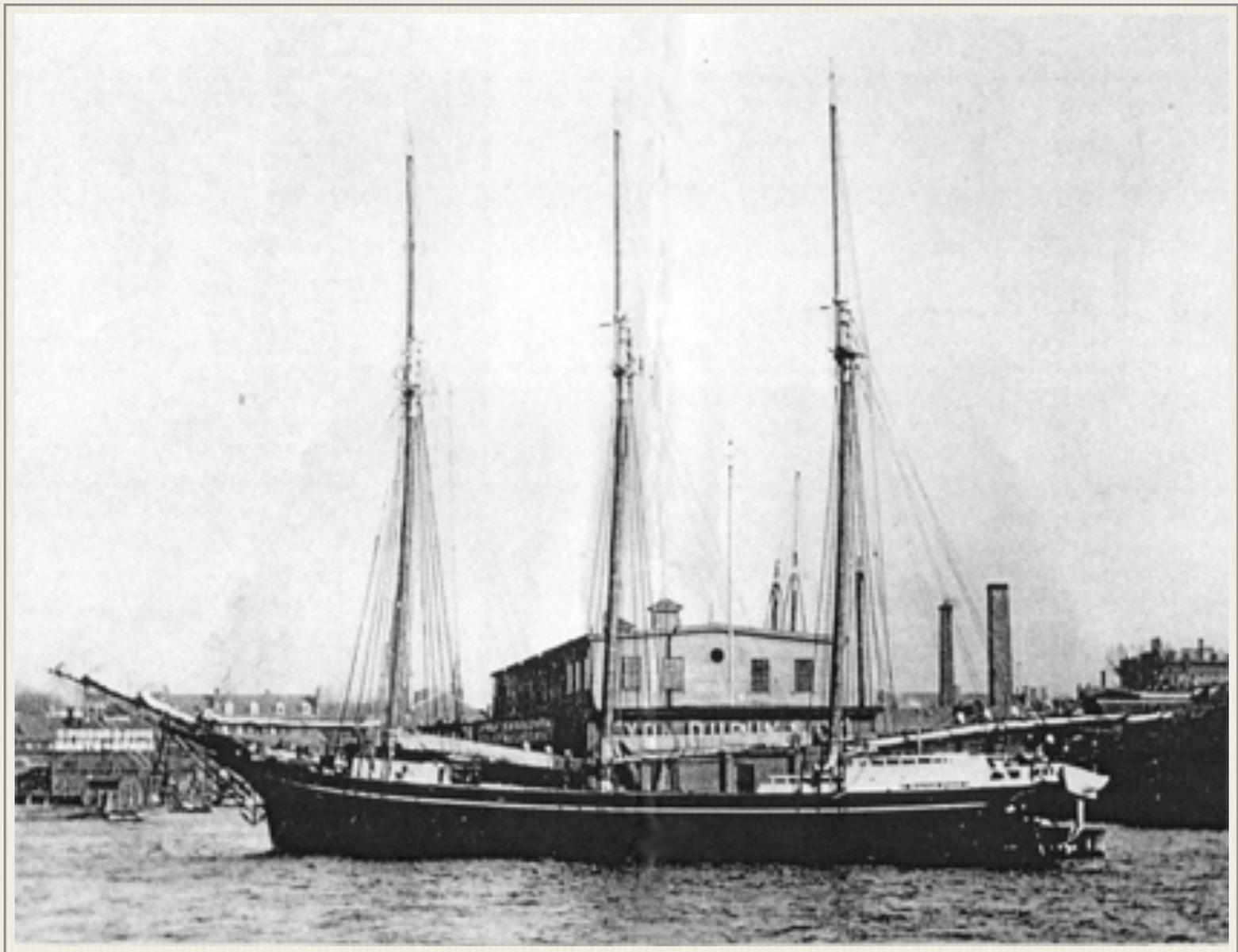
Records show that when Solomon Falkenburg moved his family to Brooklyn he continued as Master of the Schooner Carrie A. Bentley. In 1878 a new ship appears under Captain Solomon Falkenburg—the William H. Jones. The William H. Jones was a 110 ft., three-masted centerboard schooner. Construction of the 298 ton vessel was completed in Wilmington, Delaware in SEP 1867. Home port for the William H. Jones in 1877 was New York. Until 1876, the shipmaster of the William H. Jones was listed as George R. Line. [6.5] George R. Line was a brother of Rachel (Line) Falkenburg, Solomon's mother. George had been living in New York where the Wm H. Jones was registered appearing in the 1870 U.S. Census with his wife Mary Jane and family of seven children. After George Line's death in 1878, Solomon became the master of the Schooner Wm. H. Jones. This makes it likely that the family moved to Brooklyn in 1877, although Solomon could have been sailing from New York at this time while his family remained in Tuckerton.

438	Wm. H. Jillard Baltimore, Md.	Feb CB	Am	Baltimore	67	77	Talbot Co., Md.	W. H. Jones	WO;Gif;S			
439	<b>Wm. H. Jones</b> Falkenburg.	Yrn CB	Am	New York	298	'67	Wilmington, Del.	Abiel Abbot & O.	WO;Gif;S		<b>1 1/2</b>	<b>NY</b> 11, '76
460	Wm. H. Hop- kins, J.P. (Capt)	Yrn CB	Am	Mystic	314	76	Mystic, Ct.	G. Green & O.	O;Cb;Gif;S			Mt 7, '76

*Register: Record of American and Foreign Shipping, 1877 (Mystic Seaport)*

Abiel Abbot is listed among the owners of the ship. This is likely Abiel Abbot Low. Low was a prominent entrepreneur, businessman and trader. He operated a fleet of clipper ships and imported tea, silk, and porcelain from china. This may support the family story that Solomon sailed around the world. We have old coins from China that have been passed down in our family. While it is speculation, it is possible that Solomon was a crew member aboard one of Abiel Abbot Low's China clippers. We know that the William H. Jones was a coastal schooner and was, perhaps, a part of Low's fleet engaged in trade along the eastern seaboard of the United States. The picture on the next page is from a collection of photo-

graphs by F. E. Bowker in the collection of Mystic Seaport, Mystic CT, and just as family stories indicate this is a three-masted schooner.



*The William H. Jones, photo by F.E. Bowker [6.6]*

## Tragedy at Sea

On September 7, 1887 the New York Times reported **DISMANTLED IN A STORM: A Schooner Comes Back A Wreck and Without Her Captain.** [6.7] The Schooner William H. Jones was captained by my great-grandfather Solomon Faulkenburg. The article indicates that the ship was returning from a trip to Jacmel Hayti (Haiti) where the captain had delivered his cargo. Almost home, "suddenly the wind sprang up with tremendous violence from south-southeast, a full fledged hurricane. Capt. Faulkenberg [sic] took the wheel and after the first flurry had eve-

rything put in storm trim. He was still at the wheel when shortly before 2 P.M., a wave of unusual size struck the schooner. It washed across her decks, tearing away the port railing and staving in the after port deckhouse. Quickly following in the wake of the first came another monster billow, which broke completely over the deck and carried away two boats. Wave followed wave and soon not a thing movable was left on deck. ... At 5 P.M. Capt Faulkenberg held her nose to the hurricane, and she was under storm trysails only. Shortly after 5 the schooner began to

## DISMANTLED IN A STORM.

### A SCHOONER COMES BACK A WRECK AND WITHOUT HER CAPTAIN.

The schooner William H. Jones dropped anchor yesterday off Red Hook, almost a wreck. She had encountered the terrible hurricane along the coast which put even great steamers in peril, and had just managed to escape. First Mate Schultz was in command. Capt. J. R. Faulkenberg, who leaves a widow and six children in Brooklyn, had been washed overboard by one of the mammoth waves that continuously broke over the vessel, and a seaman, Frederick Nelson, met the same fate, and two other sailors suffered severe injuries.

The schooner, which is of 283 tons burden, left this port for Jacmel, Hayti, on Aug. 8, loaded with brick. She had fair weather up to Aug. 20, when in latitude 26° longitude 73°, and Capt. Faulkenberg was congratulating himself that the greater part of the voyage was over. Suddenly the wind sprang up with tremendous violence from south-southeast, a full-fledged hurricane. There was not a moment's time to take in sail or prepare for the coming ordeal. Capt. Faulkenberg took the wheel, and after the first flurry had everything put in storm trim. He was still at the wheel when, shortly before 2 P. M., a wave of unusual size struck the schooner. It washed across her decks, tearing away the port railing and staving in the after port deckhouse. Quickly following in the wake of the first came another monster billow, which broke completely over the deck and carried away two boats. Wave followed wave, and soon not a thing movable was left on deck. With the wind tearing through what was left of the rigging and the water pouring into her hold, the schooner was still going nobly at 5 P. M. Capt. Faulkenberg held her nose to the hurricane, and she was under storm trysails only. Shortly after 5 the schooner began to settle a trifle deeper in the water, and an examination showed that she was leaking. The terrible strain had proved too great for her planks, and they had sprung apart. All hands were called to man the pumps, and were lashed there to prevent being washed away. The men worked with all the will which the desire to escape a watery grave could inspire.

Half an hour after the leak was discovered, and while the crew were working to keep the schooner afloat, another wave broke over her. When the spray cleared away there was no one at the wheel. Capt. Faulkenberg, weakened by his long struggle since early morning, had lost his grip on the wheel and disappeared overboard with the receding water. Nelson was carried away at the same time, and several other sailors had narrow escapes. Not a trace was seen of either man by those left on board, and a better boat than any left on the Jones would not have floated a moment in the sea that threatened to engulf vessel and crew.

Of all the narrow escapes Mate Schultz had the narrowest. He lost his hold, and was rapidly being swept across the deck, when the wave, by its own force, wedged him in between two iron bits, and there he stuck. When he succeeded in extricating himself the wave had passed and the deck was clear. His leg was terribly wrenched and bruised and he was aching in every bone of his body. Yet he managed to reach the wheel, and got the schooner under control again. Oil bags were now hung out and oil was poured over the side into the water. The effect was at once apparent, and the vessel rode much easier.

The storm abated soon after the fatal wave washed over the schooner's deck, and Sunday she was headed for New-York. On the second day after she was struck by another hurricane, not as heavy as the first, and which did no damage. From Aug. 23 the weather was fair, luckily, for the Jones was in no condition for another battle with the elements. Although built in 1867, the schooner had been kept in good repair, and was as staunch a vessel as many a younger craft.

The New York Times

Published: September 7, 1887

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settle a trifle deeper in the water, and an examination showed that she was leaking. ... All hands were called to man the pumps, and were lashed there to prevent being washed away. ... Half an hour after the leak was discovered and while the crew were working to keep the schooner afloat, another wave broke over her. When the spray cleared away there was no one at the wheel. Capt. Faulkenberg, weakened by his long struggle since early morning, had lost his grip on the wheel and disappeared over board with the receding water." 6-1

The New York Times article cites the storm at 26°N latitude and 73° W longitude. Family oral history describes this event with many of the details. In addition, that oral history indicated that this was to be the last trip that Solomon would have made. My grandfather Samuel Edgar Falkenburg was to have accompanied his father on this journey. (Good for this branch of the family that he did not.)

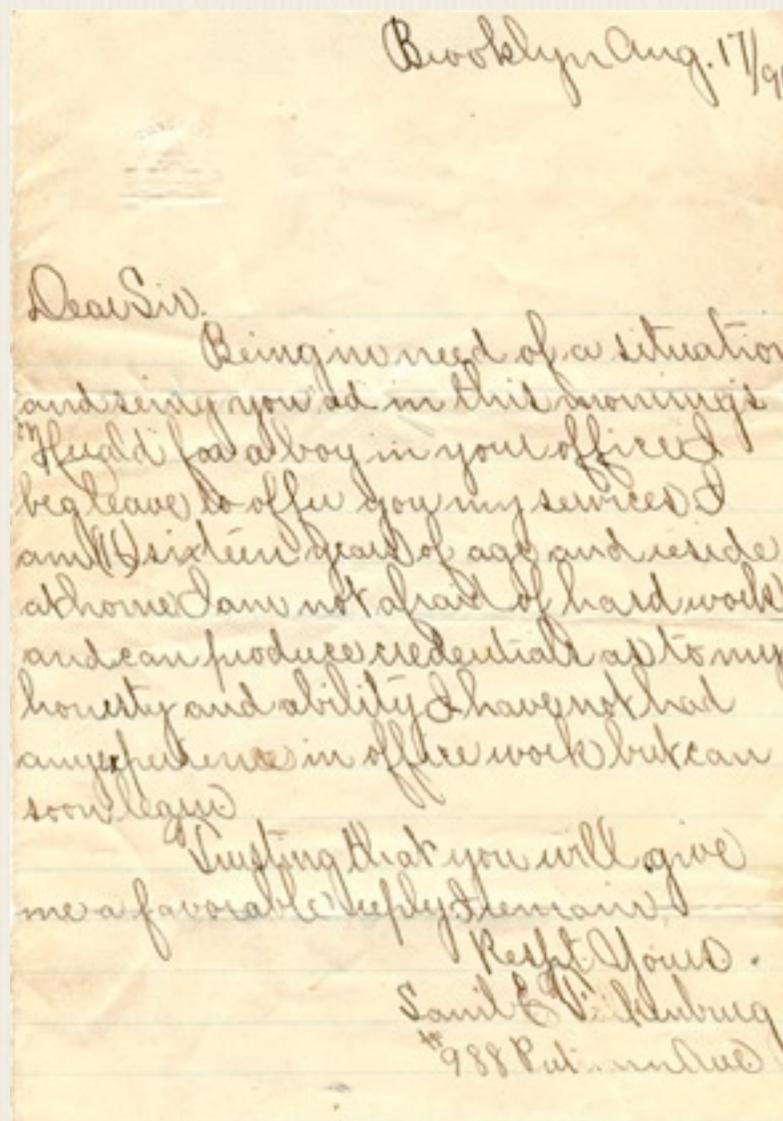
## Annie Falkenburg

Again, tragedy struck this family of sea captains. Solomon's father and grandfather both lost their lives at sea. The young Falkenburg family had to struggle as Annie had children to support. When Solomon died, Florence (the youngest) was three years old, Samuel (my grandfather) was ten, Ernest was twelve, and Mary was fifteen. The older children included George, age eighteen and Cordelia, age twenty. George likely had a job and Cordelia may have been married. Aside from the fact that there were young children to care for, women at this time had little or no opportunity for employment except as domestics, or activities like sewing or other 'woman's work' that could be done as piecework out of the home. The 1890 U.S. Census records were lost in a fire at the National Archives, so we do not have a record of the family until the 1900 census. This record shows four children living at home. Ernest Solomon, the eldest son, is a pharmacist. All of the Falkenburg sons attended Boy's High School and received the educational foundation on which to develop careers. Samuel, now age 22, is working as a clerk for Parker

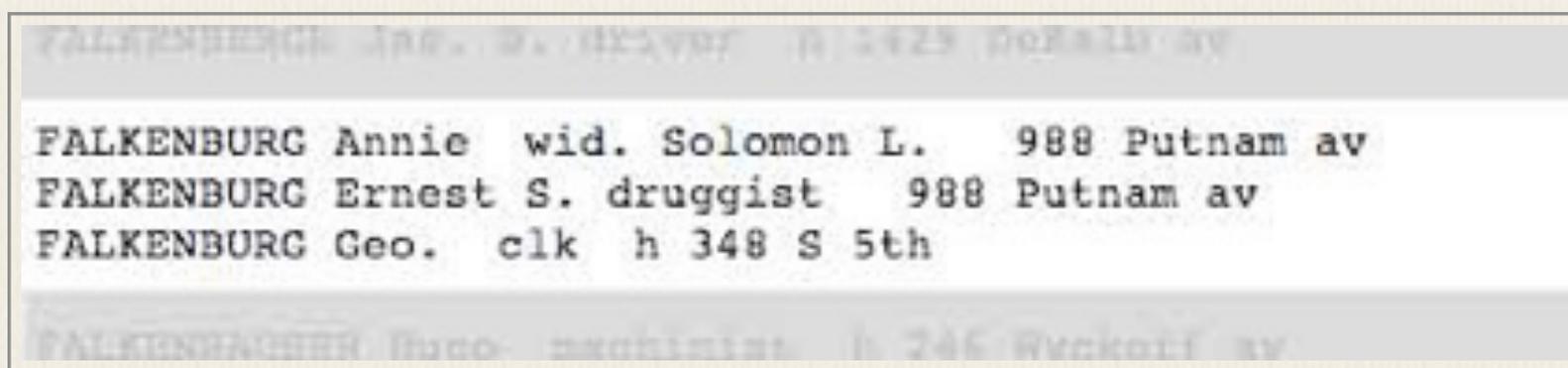
**6-1** *While the article lists him as J. R. Faulkenberg, this news story is consistent with our family record. It describes his widow and six children from Brooklyn. I have researched the Brooklyn directories and the census record and find no J. R. Faulkenberg. I am quite sure that this is a misspelling in the news article, a common event in rushing a story to print.*

Wilder & Co, textile manufacturers. Sam Falkenburg worked for the same company all his life, celebrating 50 years of service in 1944. The enumeration lists Florence, Samuel, Ernest and Neil Edgar, the son of Ernest. Ernest Solomon married Charlotte Elmore, but sadly Charlotte died shortly after Neil was born. Annie cared for young Neil while his father managed the Falkenburg Pharmacy.

The 1897-98 Lain's Brooklyn Directory [6.8] gives us a little more information. The family now lives at 988 Putnam Ave and lists Annie as the widow of Solomon L. Ernest Solomon is listed as a druggist and son George, who is not living in Annie's home, is listed as a Clerk. The entire family works to support each other in these difficult times.

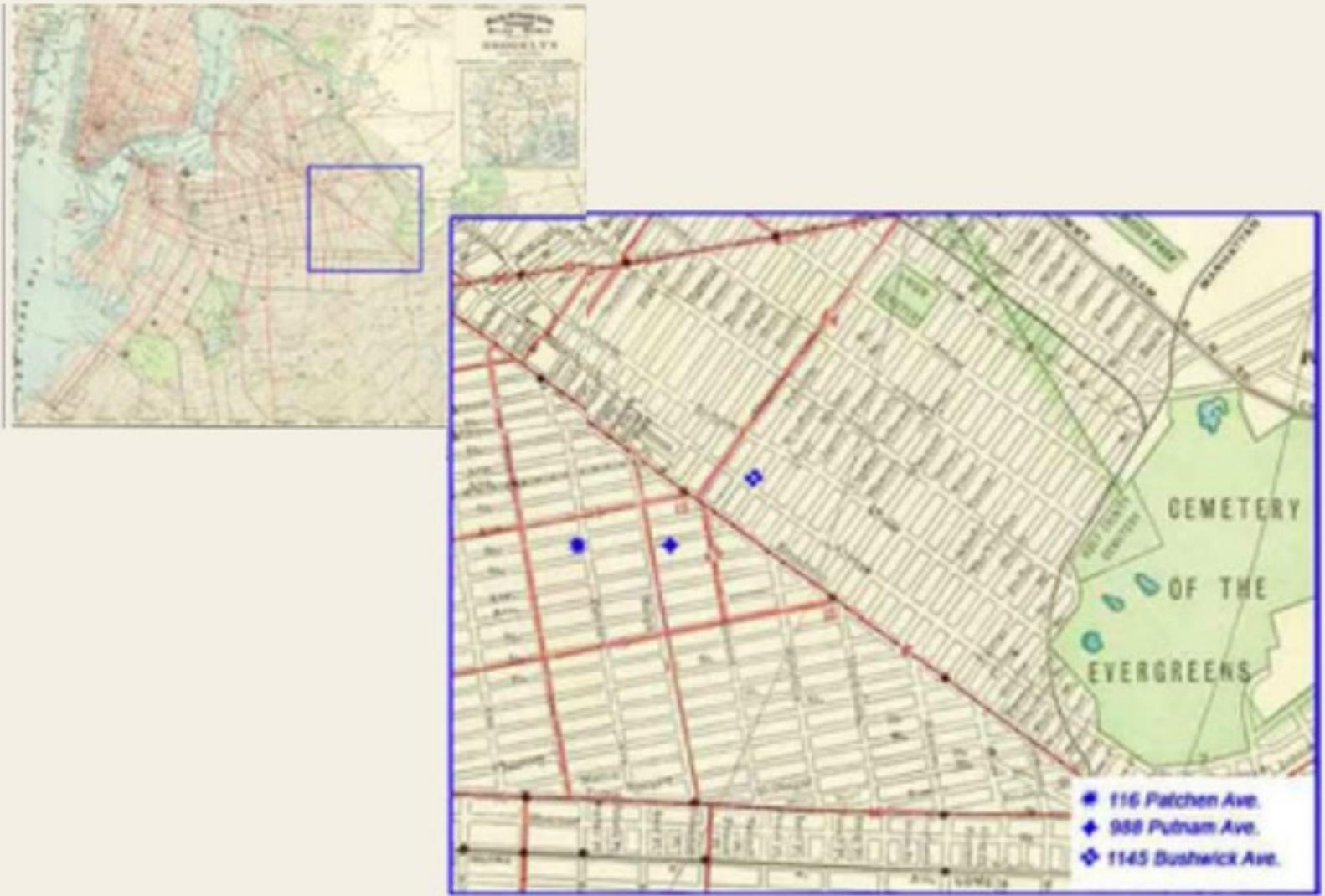


*Letter Samuel Falkenburg wrote in 1844 (at age 16) to Parker Wilder. Sam celebrated 50 years of employment with the company in 1944.*



*Transcript of Lain's Brooklyn Directory 1897-98*

The new home of Annie Falkenburg located at 988 Putnam Ave. This is only a few blocks from the Patchen address, and is also located in the Stuyvesant Heights neighborhood. The Cemetery of the Evergreens shown in this map contains the Falkenburg burial plot. The Falkenburg drug store was located at 1145 Bushwick Ave, just two blocks from the family home. In the photograph shown



*Location of the Falkenburg homes and pharmacy*



*The E.S. Falkenburg Pharmacy at 1143 Bushwick Ave.*

here, the young man on the left is Ernest Falkenburg. This building was still standing in 2012 and what was the Falkenburg Drug store is now the Bushwick Home Heating Oil Company. Neil, the son of Ernest and Charlotte (Elmore) Falkenburg, studied medicine at Columbia University and became a distinguished member of the medical community in Huntington, New York [6.9]. When I was a young boy, I recall family gatherings in which (uncle) Ernest and (uncle) Neil were part of the celebrations.

The 1910 Census lists Annie living with her daughter Cordelia (Del) and son-in-law Herbert W. Twiddy in Ward 25, Brooklyn, NY. Twiddy, who was born in New York, is listed as a newspaper proofreader in that census. The Lain's 1897 Brooklyn Directory lists an address for Herbert Twiddy as 1154 Putnam Ave. Although I do not have a date for the marriage of Cordelia and Herbert, they are likely married at this time. Their home is east of Annie's residence and about three blocks distant. So it seems the family is living in close proximity to one another at this point. Annie Falkenburg is listed as a member of the Twiddy household in both the 1920 and 1930 census records. In 1930 the family has moved to Queens; Annie is 87 years of age.

Ernest Falkenburg married Lillian Murray and the family grew to include three sons Neil Edgar (from Ernest's first marriage) William M., and Ernest Ellwood) as well as daughter Lillian Dorothy. According to a granddaughter of Ernest and Lillian:

*“The family lived in the two flats above the drug store, and my mother always told us that made them the richest family in the neighborhood. ‘The drug store also had a soda fountain which I thought was wonderful.’ All the brothers attended Boys High and my mother went to Girls high. Neil was a doctor who attended Columbia Medical School, and Bill and Ernest were both dentists who went to City College. Each of the Ernest Falkenburg children, including daughter Dorothy put themselves through college. When my mother was a senior in high school her parents moved to Delaware Nj to open a boarding house and raise chickens. Needless to say, she didn't think this was a good plan and she wanted to stay in Brooklyn and finish high school. However, her parents said no so she went to the local school (Bellvedere HS), and graduated early. After graduation she got a job working for an insurance company which she liked. However, this didn't last as her brothers insisted on*

*sending her to college. She graduated from Arnold College, a physical education school in New Haven, CT.”*

Boys’ and Girls’ High Schools were located about 10 blocks from the Falkenburg family home. My grandfather Samuel Edgar Falkenburg also attended Boys’ High. The two schools, Boys’ High and Girls’ High, were considered to deliver the best education for entry into both commercial business practice as well as for preparation to enter college. Famous graduates of the schools included: authors



*Boys’ High 832 Marcy Ave., bet. Putnam Ave  
and Madison St.*

Issac Asimov and Norman Mailer, composer Aaron Copland, and singer Lena Horne. Architect James W. Naughton designed the buildings, which are today considered “a major Brooklyn landmark, in splendid Romanesque Revival: arched, quoined, towered and lushly decorated in terracotta.” [6.10] The fact that so many of children of Solomon and Annie Falkenburg attended this renowned center of learning speaks to the high esteem the family placed on education. In an age when it was not usual for a boy to aspire to go to college, granddaughter Dorothy, a graduate of Girls’ High went on to study at Arnold College in New Haven, CT.

# Baseball

Brooklyn and the Dodgers might as well have been synonyms—you can't have one without the other, or that is what Brooklynites thought before 1958 when the team left Ebbets Field located in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn for new digs in the city of Los Angeles. The Dodgers team was established as the "Brooklyn Grays" in 1883.<sup>6-2</sup> The team was a member of the minor Inter-State Association of Professional Baseball Clubs. In 1889, the team moved to the National League and won the 1890 the league Championship. In 1912, construction began on a permanent home for the Brooklyn team, and a year later the first game was played at Ebbets Field.



*Ebbets Field on opening day, 1913*



The Falkenburgs were avid baseball fans—their home team was, of course, the Brooklyn Dodgers. After running the pharmacy on Bushwick Ave, Ernest Falkenburg opened a drugstore across from Ebbets Field. Ernest's grandson writes:

*“My grandfather who had the pharmacy on Flatbush Ave. across from Ebbets Field and used to tell me stories about the Dodgers and was himself a real baseball nut.”*

**6-2** *The team was known by several names during its Brooklyn history: Brooklyn Bridegrooms (1890-1898) Brooklyn Superbas (1899-1910) Brooklyn Trolley Dodgers (1911-1912) Brooklyn Dodgers (1913) Brooklyn Robins (1914-1931) Brooklyn Dodgers (1932-1957)*

**AL LOPEZ:** catcher with the Brooklyn Robins/Dodgers from 1928-1935. Elected to the Hall of Fame in 1977

**BILLY HERMAN:** Second Base Brooklyn Dodgers from 1941-1946 (missed the 1944-1945 seasons due to World War II). Inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1975.

**BURLEIGH GRIMES:** Pitcher Brooklyn Robins from 1918-1926, manager Brooklyn Dodgers 1937-38. Inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1964.

**CASEY STENGEL:** Outfielder Brooklyn Superbas/Robins from 1912-1917; Dodgers Manager 1934-36. Inducted into the Hall of Fame as a manager in 1966

**DAZZY VANCE:** Pitcher Brooklyn Robins/Dodgers from 1922-1932 and also in 1935. Inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1955.

**DUKE SNIDER:** Center fielder for the Brooklyn/Los Angeles Dodgers from 1947-1962. Inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1980.

**GIL HODGES:** First baseman for the Brooklyn/Los Angeles Dodgers from 1943-1961 (missed the 1944-1946 seasons due to World War II). Was a member of the 1955 and 1959 World Series Championship teams.

**HACK WILSON:** Outfielder for the Brooklyn Dodgers from 1932-1934. Inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1979.

**JACKIE ROBINSON:** Played for the Brooklyn Dodgers from 1947-1956. First African American player to break the "color barrier" in baseball. Inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1962.

**JOE MEDWICK:** Left fielder with the Brooklyn Dodgers from 1940-1943 and again in 1946. Inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1968.

**JUNIOR GILLIAM:** Second/third baseman for the Brooklyn/Los Angeles Dodgers his entire career from 1953-1966. Was a member of four World Series Championship teams in 1955, 1959, 1963 and 1965.

**LEO DUROCHER:** Shortstop for the Brooklyn Dodgers from 1938-1945 (missed the 1942 and 1944 seasons). Manager 1939-1946, 1948. Inducted into the Hall of Fame as a manager in 1994.

**PEE WEE REESE:** Shortstop, from 1940-1958 with the Brooklyn/Los Angeles Dodgers. Inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1984.

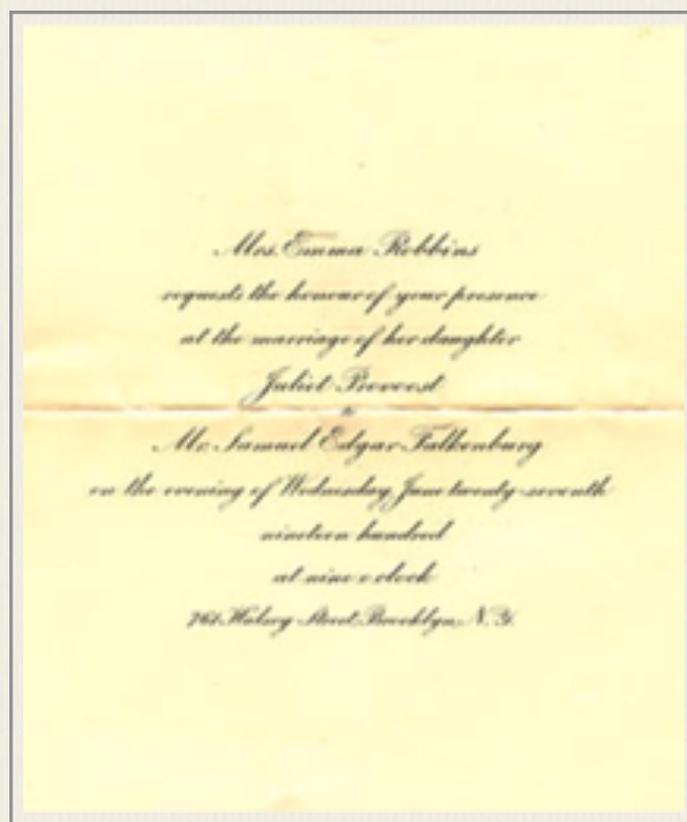
**PETE REISER:** Outfielder with the Brooklyn Dodgers from 1940-1948 (missed the 1943-1945 seasons due to World War II).

**ROY CAMPANELLA:** Catcher his entire career with the Dodgers from 1948-1957. Was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1969.

My grandfather and my father both loved the Dodgers. The picture shown on the last page is a photo of Ebbets Field was taken in 1895. When Samuel was 18 years of age, Sam played baseball. In this picture, the young man on the left is my grandfather. His uniform is possibly from an organization called the Eastern Athletic Club.

## Samuel Edgar Falkenburg & Juliete Provoost Robbins

Juliet Provoost Robbins (daughter of Emma and George W. Robbins) and Samuel Edgar Falkenburg (son of Annie and Solomon Falkenburg) were married on 27 JUL 1900. In addition to the documentation of the marriage in the George W. Robbins Family Bible, I found an invitation in an envelope hand addressed to Mrs. A. Falkenburg, Sam's mother.



*The wedding invitation*



*Sam and Juliet as a Young Couple, likely a favor from their wedding*

My branch of the family tree was nearly terminated when on August 3, 1905 my grandfather Samuel almost drowned while swimming. The young family was living in Brooklyn at the time, but must have been visiting Tukerton, NJ for a holi-

day. This is the ancestral home of the family. According to a newspaper article in the Tukerton Beacon, Samuel who was considered a good swimmer, probably got caught in a strong undertow and went under. His friend tried to save him, but had difficulty. When they got him to shore, Samuel was not breathing. Fortunately, a doctor was at the beach and he restored breathing to the patient.

Sam and Juliet had two sons. The eldest, Lawrence Miller was born in 1 OCT 1901 and Edgar Robbins was born 16 JAN 1912. The middle names of both sons come from Juliet's side of the family. George Washington and Emma Robbins were her parents. Miller was the name of Juliet's paternal grandfather Miller Rob-



*Lawrence Miller Falkenburg*



*Edgar Robbins Falkenburg*

bins. Miller was also the name of the first-born of her parents G.W. and Emma Robbins. Most boys today would be horrified if their parents had a picture like the one of Larry, but at the turn of the century, this was a common style for a child's portrait. On the back of the picture the studio (Bushwick Ave. Studio, R. Weiss Artist and Photographer) has written the address 823 Hancock St. This is likely the address of the Falkenburg home.

## Move to Rockville Centre, Long Island

<i>The family of Samuel Edgar Falkenburg</i>	
Samuel Edgar Falkenburg b. 24 DEC 1878 { (Tuckerton, NJ) d. 1 JAN 1960; m. 27 JUN 1900 Juliet Provost Robbins b. d. JUN 1969	
M	(1) Lawrence Miller b. 1 OCT 1901
M	(2) Edgar Robbins b. 16 JAN 1912 d. MAR 1982

My grandparents Samuel and Juliet and my father Edgar are listed in the 1937 Robinson's Rockville Centre and Oceanside Redbook, living at 29 Patten Avenue, Rockville Centre. This is the same house that my grandparents lived in while I was growing up. It was a two-story tudor-style stucco home. The house had a copper roof which had a beautiful patina. Years later, I returned to the home and discovered that the roof had been replaced—likely for the salvage value of the copper.

Falkenburg Edgar R. Clerk.....	29 Patten Av. Oceanside—RV C
Falkenburg Samuel E (Juliet P) Cashier.....	29 Patten Av. Oceanside—RV C

*Robinson's Rockville Center Oceanside Directory 1937*

While we seldom entered through the front door, that entry brought you to the living room on the right, a staircase to the bedrooms was straight ahead and to the left, through a doorway, was a small sitting room. My grandparents seldom used the living room, except for special events, and the curtains were always drawn. I was told that this was to protect the



*The Rockville Centre home of Samuel and Juliet Falkenburg*

fabrics in the living room. The small sitting room was where my grandparents read the newspaper and relaxed in the evening. It had a sweet aroma from my grandfather's pipe. On the wall was a water color of a male and female partridge nesting in the reeds, and of course there was the console radio/victrola. Later this was replaced by a TV.

The rear entry to the house was on the other side of the den. It was painted a light butter-yellow, and I recall the smells of the kitchen as you entered this area. To the left was a pantry and to the right was the kitchen. I especially remember my grandmother's stove which had a gas broiling well and an exhaust fan on the wall. I had never seen such a fancy stove before.

Walking through the kitchen led to the formal dining room. This was a large room which could seat twelve comfortably. A large picture window gave a view of a beautifully landscaped backyard. To the right of the entry from the kitchen was a large sideboard. At holidays my grandmother decorated this. I remember at Christmas the snowscape and animated santa that adorned the top of the sideboard. To the far right were french doors which led into the formal living room. These were always kept shut.

Directly across the dining room from the kitchen was a screened porch accessed through another set of french doors. While only open during the warmer seasons, this was also a favorite sitting room for the family and guests. A straw rug covered the slate floor and several comfortable chairs, chaises, and gliders ringed the room. My brother and I really liked to sit on the spring-back chair and were always reminded to rock it gently!

Upstairs were three bedrooms. At the top of the stairs and to the right was the master suite. I remember as a child that you stepped down into the bedroom (which was directly over, and the same size as the living room). The room was ornately decorated, and did not appear to a young boy that it was the kind of room that anyone would want to spend much time in. The odor of perfume was apparent, yet not overwhelming.

At the end of the upstairs hall (above the dining room) was a simpler bedroom and a large wooden bed. I had never seen a bed so high off the ground. When we

stayed at my grandmothers house, this is where my brother and I slept. I worried about falling out of bed onto the hard floor.

At the opposite end of the upstairs hall was a guest bedroom. It was usually closed up, but I do remember that for a time Aunt Florence (I don't know how she was related to us) stayed there. While my memory is somewhat clouded, I think that she may have been ill during the time she stayed with my grandparents.

The back yard was my grandfather's pride and joy. He was an avid rose enthusiast and I remember him winning prizes for entries in a local garden show. There was a rage at the time to try to grow a black rose, and my grandfather had a couple of contenders for that. At the far corner of the back yard was a fish pond. Here my grandfather kept his Koi—they were simply called them goldfish back then. They were quite tame and one fish, named Pete, would come to the surface and let us stroke his head.

On one side of the backyard was a beautiful flowering crabapple. Each spring this burst into the most beautiful display. My brother and I loved to climb in this tree—its low branched trunk made is easy for us. The lawn was manicured. The landscaping was beautifully done with azaleas, hostas, and other flowers. The back of the pool was a rock garden covered with a lush growth of pachysandra

Each winter my grandfather dutifully rounded up Pete and the other fish and moved them to large tanks he kept in the basement. My brother and I always got a chance to play in the basement as the adults talked around the dining room table. My grandfather kept a box of scrap wood which we would spend time nailing into our creations. My father was always concerned that we left the basement clean and neat, so picking up our stuff was part of the routine. Granddad's basement was even carpeted with an (older) oriental rug!

Christmas Eve was the day at my grandparents. It was my grandfather's birthday! I always commented that I was glad that my birthday was not on Christmas Eve; I wanted two celebratory events, not one! This was a time when Nanny, Granddad, my parents, my brother and I, my Aunt Gene, Uncle Larry, and Cousin Ray got together. The living room was shut tightly; we knew that it was filled with presents! But first, we had to have dinner. The three grandchildren

made frequent trips to the french doors joining the dining and living rooms and tried to peer through the sheer curtains on the glass doors. At times it seemed that dinner would never end! The men and kids would move to the sitting room waiting impatiently for the women to "clean up" after dinner. After what seemed an eternity, finally the french doors to the living room were opened, and the lights were turned on and the time to open presents finally began!

It was the tradition in our family to visit relatives on Sunday mornings. My father, brother, and I would go to the bakery and get some danish and a crumb cake, then we would stop for the Sunday paper (and comics). After picking up my mother we would stop first at my grandparents home. We sat at the large dining room table. My grandmother usually had a pancake griddle on the sideboard and she made us animal-shaped pancakes. After my brother and I became bored with the conversation, we would take the comic section of the paper (which was in full color!) and read. Our next stop was a few blocks away at Aunt Gene, Uncle Larry, and my cousin Ray's home. My grandparents, my parents, and my aunt & uncle all lived within an eight-block radius of each other.



*Sam and Juliet (Jule) Falkenburg on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary*



*The Falkenburg brothers Samuel (left) and Ernest (right) at the 50th anniversary celebration of Juliet and Samuel*

In 1950 Juliet and Sam celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. My parents threw a gala celebration at our home; a reunion of Solomon and Annie Falkenburg family.

## Final Thoughts

When my great-grandparents moved to Brooklyn, New York the nation was experiencing rapid change in science and technology. Here are just a few of the new inventions what would revolutionize life for our family:

First Flight: Just three years after Sam and Juliet were married, Orville and Wilber Wright flew their *Wright Flyer*, a fabric-covered biplane with a wooden frame powered by a 12-horsepower water-cooled engine which drove twin wooden propellers. What seemed an amazing feat in that day would revolutionize transportation. In 1958 (eight years after my grandparents celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary) Pan Am initiated jet service between New York and London using the new Boeing 707.



The Automobile: Henry Ford developed and manufactured the first automobile that middle class Americans could afford to buy. His innovation was a belt-driven assembly line that that reduced assembly time for an automobile from over 12 hours to 2.5 hours. Ford's 1913 Model T created personal mobility for Americans. My grandparents loved to use their automobile to drive the family to a farm in Maine for a summer vacation. In those days, a trip from New York to the Maine woods was quite and adventure!:



Communications: Today in the age of TV and the internet, we forget how difficult it was to rapidly access information. When important events occurred, newspapers would issue a special edition and young boys would stand on street corners shouting *Read All About It!* Rural Americans were often left in the dark about recent events. Radio changed all of that. Developed in the first two decades of the twentieth century, radio was first used by the U.S. military, experimental engineers and hobbyists. In the early 1920s, radio became a commercial medium for the



first time. The first commercial station in New York was WJZ purchased from Westinghouse in 1921 by RCA. Four days after the station went on air, it aired the New York Yankees/New York Giants World Series. Franklyn Delano Roosevelt effectively used the medium of radio to communicate with his constituency. First as governor of New York and later as President of the United States, he introduced what he called Fireside Chats, listened to by many Americans. FDR's broadcast speech to the nation after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, riveted the nation as the President declared war on Japan.

Medicine: Before the 1930s fighting bacterial infections was a very difficult task; deaths from pneumonia and blood poisoning were commonplace. My grandfather had a very severe case of pneumonia which doctors treated with a brand new miracle sulfa drug. This early antibiotic saved my grandfather's life.

Advances in technology changed the lives of our family. New technologies were introduced at work, and the home. In the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century technology advances come rapidly and so often; we expect change and are constantly looking for the new device to enhance our lives. But in the era of my grandparents, air travel, automobiles, radio and television were unexpected marvels that helped to propel families into new experiences, changing the culture of our nation.

## The Story Behind the Story

Most of the pictures in this chapter were passed down to me from my parents and grandparents. As is often the case, I knew very little about the details of the family in the early part of the twentieth century other than they lived in Brooklyn, and when there was a death in the family, interment was always at the Cemetery of the Evergreens, which I found was in the neighborhood in which my great-grandparents had moved. Digging through the census and other public records led me to expand the narrative of this chapter.

After my grandparents and parents had passed away, I lost connection with other members of the Solomon and Annie Falkenburg family. One of the first people I was able to find through the internet was Warren Falkenburg II, grandson of George Harrison Falkenburg III. It was Warren who provided me with hand-written notes made by his mom Wilma (Pycock) Falkenburg.

Another internet connection I made was with Jack Bradley. He is a great-grandson of Ernest Falkenburg. Through him I began corresponding with his aunt Jane (Bradley) Springer. Jane provided me with quotes about her grandfather's drug store which I have included in this narrative. Jane told me that she believed that her cousin Neil (Buzz) Falkenburg lived in Seattle. I began a search which ended with remaking that connection. Buzz is a grandson of Ernest.

I was contacted by Bob Benjamin who had seen my postings regarding the Falkenburgs on Ancestry.com and other internet sites. Although Bob is not a blood relative to the Falkenburg family, his family had a very close relationship with Ernest E. Falkenburg, son of Ernest Solomon Falkenburg.

This chapter in my family history was enhanced by internet connections among members of the Solomon and Annie Falkenburg family, some I had never met and some of whom I had lost contact with for decades.

## References Chapter 6

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