

# THE GENEALOGY OF HERBERT W ARMSTRONG (1892-1986)

## WCG Genealogy Document





## **Genealogy & HWA By Tammy Roberts**

I was always interested in the family history of Herbert Armstrong, so I researched his family (as much as possible through the internet. I especially enjoyed getting the census info. I'll include that here so anyone interested can have it. The ARMSTRONG line goes:

Herbert W(right) Armstrong b. 31 Jul 1892 DesMoines, Iowa m. Loma Isabelle DILLON b. 18 Oct 1891 Palmyra, Warren Co., Iowa

\*note: Loma was his second cousin - their grandparents were siblings (John W. WRIGHT & Anna WRIGHT)

Horace Elon Armstrong b. 23 Apr 1864 Indiana. Eva WRIGHT b. 21 Apr 1866 Warren Co., Iowa

Nathan H. Armstrong b. 29 Aug 1835 Ohio m. Lydia HOLE b. 2 Feb 1842 Pennsylvania

Samuel Armstrong b. 27 Apr 1800 Delaware m. Elizabeth COPE b. 8 Sep 1803 Fayette Co., PA

James Armstrong b. 1758 Bucks Co., PA m. Ruth BENNETT b. 1759 Kennett, Chester Co., PA

Samuel Armstrong b. 1739 d. 29 Sep 1828 m. Jane GIBSON

It's interesting that Buck HAMMER's mother was Ida Pearl COPE and HWA's great-grandmother was a COPE. Am trying to find Pearl's family.

Herbert W. Armstrong was named after his mother's brother, Herschel Herbert WRIGHT. I speculate that the "W" in his name stands for WRIGHT...Herbert Wright Armstrong, a common practice to use the mother's maiden name as a middle name for her sons.

1900 Des Moines, Polk, Iowa Sheets 23/24

Armstrong, Horace E. head w m Aug 1864 36 m.11 IN OH unknown

Armstrong, Eva W. wife w f Apr 1866 29 m11 3/3 IA OH IL

Armstrong, Herbert son w m Jul 1892 7 s IA IN IA

Armstrong, Mabel dau w f Sep 1899 5 s IA IN IA

Armstrong, Russell son w m Jan 1900 9/12 s IA IN IA

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1920 Proviso Twp., Cooke, Illinois 220/81/88

Armstrong, Herbert head rents w m 28 m IA IA IA "representative for publishing house"

Armstrong, Loma wife f w 28 m IA OH OH

Armstrong, Beverly f w 1-6/12 s IA IA IA

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\*Herbert Armstrong's daughter, Dorothy was listed as living in the home of her Aunt Mary Armstrong Edmundson at this time, but also living in the home of her family:

1930 Portland, Multnomah Co., Oregon Census, lines 67-70:

Edmundson, Donald W. head m w 25 m.23 OR IA IA [owns home worth \$5,000]

occupation: Estimator for Store Equipment

Edmundson, Mary A. wife wife 25 m.22 IA IN IA [sister of HWA]

Armstrong, Dwight bro-in-law IA IN IA occupation: Laborer at Sash & Door Factory [brother of HWA]

Armstrong, Dorothy niece f w 9-6/12 IA IA IA [dau of HWA]

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1930 Portland, Multnomah Co., Oregon Census Sheet 5A, lines 6-11:

Armstrong, Herbert W. head [rents home for \$20 per month] m w 37 m.25 IA IN IA  
occupation: advertising/newspaper

Armstrong, Loma E. wife f s 38 m.25 IA OH IA

Armstrong, Beverly L. dau f w 11 s IA IA IA

Armstrong, Dorothy J. dau f w 9 s IA IA IA

Armstrong, Richard D. son m w 1-6/12 s OR IA IA

Armstrong, Garner T. son m w 2/12 OR IA IA [note: GTA's birth date is given as 9 Feb 1930, but he is 2.5 years old on the 1930 census]

The 1920 & 1930 Censuses for HWA's family are also included:

1920 Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA

Armstrong, Russell m w 30 m IA IA IA [rents home] , occupation: "roller man" at St. Panning Co.

Armstrong, Mabel wife f w 29 m SD Canada England

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1930 Pacific Grove District 34, Monterey County, CA Census:

Mott, Luella D. Head f w 65 Wd. OH OH OH ,owns home

Armstrong, Russell 40 IA OH OH <roomer> occupation: cement worker, road construction

Armstrong, Mabel 39 SD IA IA <roomer>

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1930 Portland, Multnomah Co., Oregon Census, lines 67-70:

Edmundson, Donald W. head m w 25 m.23 OR IA IA [owns home worth \$5,000]  
occupation: Estimator for Store Equipment

Edmundson, Mary A. wife wife 25 m.22 IA IN IA [sister of HWA]

Armstrong, Dwight bro-in-law IA IN IA occupation: Laborer at Sash & Door Factory  
[brother of HWA]

Armstrong, Dorothy niece f w 9-6/12 IA IA IA [dau of HWA]

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1930 Salem Twp, Marion Co., Oregon Census

Armstrong, Horace E. head m w [owns home valued at \$4500] 65 m.21 IN IN IN  
[stationery (sic) engineer at Deaf School]

Armstrong, Eva W. wife f w 63 m.21 IA OH IL [ no occupation ]

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The DILLON line goes back from Loma:

Loma Isabelle Dillon dau of>

William Alvin Dillon b. 20 Jan 1863 Leesburg, Highland Co., OH m. Isabelle

TALBOY b. 19 Mar 1866 Palmyra, Warren Co., IA

Solomon Matthew DILLON b. abt 1832 Highland Co., Ohio m. Anna WRIGHT b. 1836  
Ohio

James DILLON of Maryland m. Rebecca Gray WILSON of Maryland

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The WRIGHT and TALBOY lines all go back to England, the DILLON line I have only to Maryland. The ARMSTRONG line I have back to Pennsylvania. Other surnames in this tree included: HOLE, COPE, BENNETT, MAXWELL, GARNER, COLE, JERMYN, PETTIT, MCGINNIS, ELLIS, REESE, ROGERS, DAVIS & LAWTIE.

Anyone seeking information on these surnames, email me and I'll send you what limited information I have. I was always curious if HWA was a shirt-tail cousin since I have WRIGHTs in my tree. No connection so far.

## **Armstrong Lineage Confirmed (Letter to *The Journal*) By Bill Lussenheide**

A legend perpetuated in the Church of God is that Herbert Armstrong was descended from the kings of England and Scotland. In fact, I even heard HWA make the claim himself at the auditorium in Pasadena in a sermon.

With US&BC a pivotal doctrinal position in the Worldwide Church of God, having HWA descending from the royal line added all the more to the mystique of the Israel-in-prophecy theory.

I decided to do some investigation, especially with the resources now available on the Internet.

The results: Yes!

Thanks to the Latter Day Saints Church and its exhaustive Internet genealogy records, I was able indeed to trace the Armstrong lineage back to the royal line. The line I traced does not come through the Armstrong name but in fact through a paternal grandmother named Lydia Hole, who married Nathan Armstrong, who in turn produced Horace Elon Armstrong, who was HWA's father.

[[[ Geoff's notes: (1) BOTH HWA's 1967 & 1986 Autobiography Vol 1, state near the start of Chapter 1, that "My ancestry, through a paternal GREAT-grandmother, traces back to Edward 1, King of England. I assume that is Lydia Hole's mother, whose maiden name doesn't appear in the Autobiography. Do you know it?

(2) Since Loma Isabella Armstrong--later called Loma D. (for Dillon, her maiden name)--was a third cousin of HWA, I presume she also was of Royal blood. Why would God choose anything less for the most important couple in the endtime?

(3) Since HWA seems to have predominantly inherited his mother's facial features--and he looks somewhat like the older Ariel Sharon- my guess is that she was also Jewish in descent, and probably also of the House of David. I speculate that God gave Herbert W Armstrong perfect genealogy back to King David on both sides, because of his importance as the endtime Elijah, and so that the Jews ultimately will have no excuse for not recognizing who he was.

End of Geoff's notes, back to the Journal letter...]]].

The HWA autobiography (final 1986 edition) has a picture of a young HWA (age 1) with his grandfather Elon Hole shown in the photo pages after page 120.

Elon Hole was 92 in the picture according to the autobiography, having been born in 1800, and, according to the LDS site, dying in 1895 in Des Moines, Iowa (HWA's birthplace).

The Hole lineage goes back to 1400 to Devonshire, England. Through marriage to the DeUmfreville line, the royal lineage starts to emerge. From the DeUmfreville line comes Maud, princess of Scotland, Henry, prince of Scotland, David, king of Scotland, and Malcolm III, king of England, way back to before A.D. 1000.

Additionally, kings of Denmark and Sweden bless the Armstrong bloodline.

Here is how to confirm this yourself. Go to [www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/frameset\\_search.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/frameset_search.asp), then type in "Elon Hole" in the listed spots. Click on the name when it comes up again and then click on "pedigree."

Keep clicking on the arrows for the "Hole" family line until it links up with the DeUmfreville line. Trace backwards from this line to find the royal links.

I traced my own family history back to 1350 using this site.

## **Information on HWA's Genealogy By Robert Boraker**

In regard to the family history and lineage of Herbert W. Armstrong, I can add some information for clarification. Mr. Armstrong's paternal GREAT-grandmother was actually Elizabeth COPE. He once said that the Cope Foundation had sent him an ancestral chart that traced his ancestry from Elizabeth COPE back to King Edward I. That lineage was given in the 1983 feast film, "Behind the Work." I copied it from the video and added details as follows:

Edward I, King of England  
Princess Joan Plantagenet m. Sir Gilbert De Clare  
Lady Margaret De Clare m. Hugh De Audley  
Margaret De Audley m. Sir Ralph De Stafford, Earl of Stafford  
Margaret Stafford m. Sir John Stafford of Bramshall  
Sir Ralph Stafford of Grafton m. Maud Hastings  
Sir Humphrey Stafford of Grafton, 1384-1419, m. Elizabeth Bindette  
Sir Humphrey Stafford of Grafton, living 1467, m. Eleanor Aylesbury  
Sir Humphrey Stafford of Grafton, executed in 1486, m. Catherine Fray  
Sir Humphrey Stafford m. Margaret Tame  
Anne Stafford, living 1613, m. Sir Anthony COPE  
Edward Cope of Brixton, living 1613, m. Maud  
John Cope of Marden, Wilts., m. Margaret  
John Cope, d. 1649, m. Elizabeth  
Oliver Cope of Avebury, Wilts., m. Rebecca (came to Pennsylvania in 1683 having received a grant of land from William Penn at "Backington", Naaman'sCreek).  
John Cope, 1691-1773, of East Bradford, Chester Co, PA, m. Charity Jefferies  
John Cope, 1730-1812, m. (2) Mary Dickinson  
Jesse (Joshua) Cope, m. Margaret Dixon  
Elizabeth Cope m. Samuel ARMSTRONG  
Nathan H. Armstrong m. Lydia HOLE dau of Elon Hole  
Horace Elon Armstrong m. Eva WRIGHT  
Herbert W. Armstrong m. Loma DILLON  
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Most of the above details are verified in the book, "Living Descendants of Blood Royal" by Count D'Angerville, Vol.3, pp. 172-173, published by World Nobility and Peerage, London and Paris, 1964.

Mr. Armstrong once said he did not have a middle name to begin with. But since there was another Herbert Armstrong in Oregon, he added the "W" which he took from the family surname of WRIGHT.

## Reconstruction of HWA's Genealogy By Geoff Neilson

? ..... --m-- ? ..... Wright  
(Maternal Great Grandmother 1) (Maternal Great Grandfather 1)

Elon Hole  
(Paternal Great Grandfather 1)

..... Armstrong (Paternal Great  
(Paternal Great Grandfather 2). Grandmother 1)  
--m--

? .....  
(Paternal Great Grandmother 2).

..... ancestors unknown

Nathan Armstrong  
Paternal Grandfather) John Wright  
--m-- (Maternal  
Lydia Hole ... Grandfather)  
(Paternal Grandmother) --m--  
Mary Ann Maxwell  
(Maternal Grandmother)

Horace Elon Armstrong--m--Eva Wright

Herbert W Armstrong  
--m--  
Loma Isabella Dillon (ancestors unknown)

Garner Ted Armstrong  
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### HWA's Grave Stone

