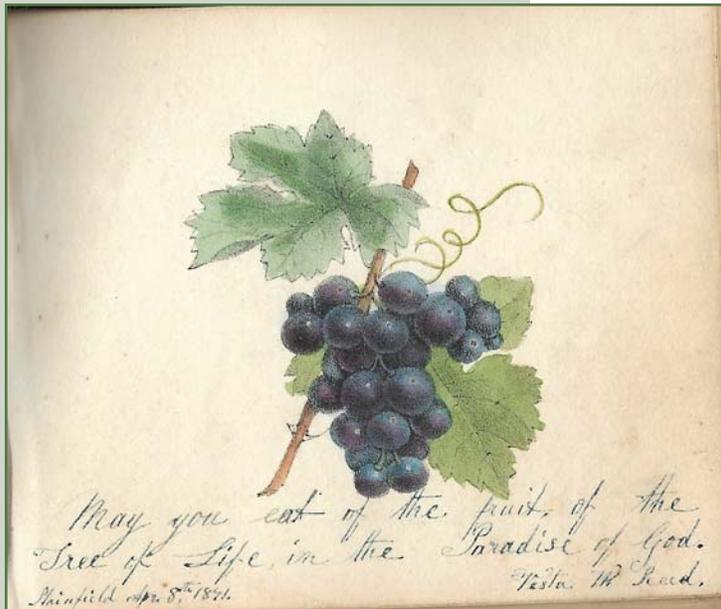


Abigail Beales, Phebe Carll, Irene Schultz: Three Young Lives Rediscovered

I have often written about old albums, letters, inscribed books, and samplers I found in flea markets and antique stores. That such fragile things could survive for decades and centuries only to be randomly rescued begs the question: Where have they been and how did they come to be where I found them? While that question almost always goes unanswered, each of my rescues has been followed by the (welcome) challenge of searching for information on the original owner and the reward of being able to learn about those owners and share their stories with others. In that spirit, let me tell you about Abigail, Phebe, and Irene, the surviving fragments of their young lives I found, and the broader story of who they were.

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, I bought an early 19th century friendship album at an antiques store in Lambertville. It belonged to a young woman named Abigail Beales. Research would confirm that Abigail was 22 years old when she began getting inscriptions in her album in 1838. She was born in Plainfield, Massachusetts in 1816 to Robert and Rebecca Beales who were also born in Plainfield. Abigail married Granville Bascom Hall, a prosperous farmer who traced his lineage to a Mayflower ancestor. The Halls had three children including a son, Granville Stanley Hall, a pioneering psychologist and college educator and first president of the American Psychological Association. Today, nearly a century after his death, a number of his psychological beliefs and theories,





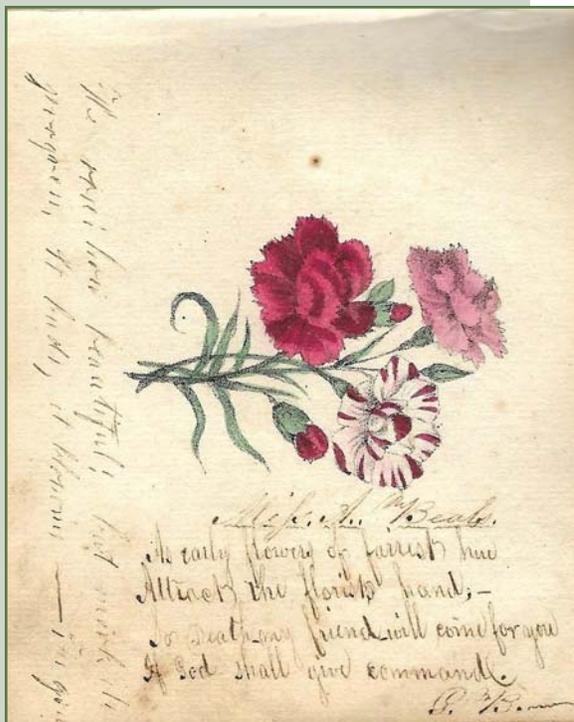
some shared by Sigmund Freud, would be considered controversial and no longer acceptable. Granville Stanley Hall was born just six years after his mother Abigail was filling her album with the sentiments of her friends and family, most of those with a religious theme and anything but light-hearted. Among them:

"A hope of happiness you have, eternal in the skies; Where you shall cease all mortal care and end all earthly strife; This hope let every 'morn refresh and every evening cheer; By constant care and watchfulness, our only safeguard here."

"As early flowers of fairest hue attract the florist's hand; So, death my friend will come for you, if God shall give command."

"Here friends assemble, hand and heart; Whom life may sever, death may part; Sweet be those deaths, their lives well spent; And this their friendships' monument."

Abigail Beales Hall lived her life in Massachusetts and died in Ashfield, Massachusetts in 1886 at the age of sixty-nine.



RELIGIOUS FAITH IN DAILY LIFE and the duty to live a moral life on earth also play a role in the story of a small book I recently found at the Golden Nugget antiques market in Lambertville. Forty years after Abigail Beales Hall's friends began writing in her album pages, an 11-year-old girl from Lower Alloways Creek, New Jersey was given a small book titled *The Talking Bible*. The four inch by six inch book of just twenty-four pages was published in Philadelphia in 1851 by the American Sunday-School Union, with the "sanction" of a Committee of Publication consisting of representatives of the Baptist, Methodist, Congregationalist, Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Reformed Dutch denominations. An inscription at the front of the book says: "Presented to Phebe F. Carll from Harmersville S. School, 1878." A paper label in the back of the book shows the book was purchased at Reeve & Fithian Booksellers & Stationers in Bridgeton, New Jersey. Phebe Carll was born into a large and influential family in Salem County in 1867. The first Carll immigrants arrived in the early 18th century from Germany. Phebe's



THE

TALKING BIBLE.



“A man of learning, a philosopher and a great reader of books was sitting in his library.—p. 5. Talking Bible.



PHILADELPHIA :
AMERICAN SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION,
No. 146 CHESTNUT STREET.
NEW YORK, No. 147 Nassau Street.....BOSTON, No. 9 Cornhill
LOUISVILLE, No. 103 Fourth Street.



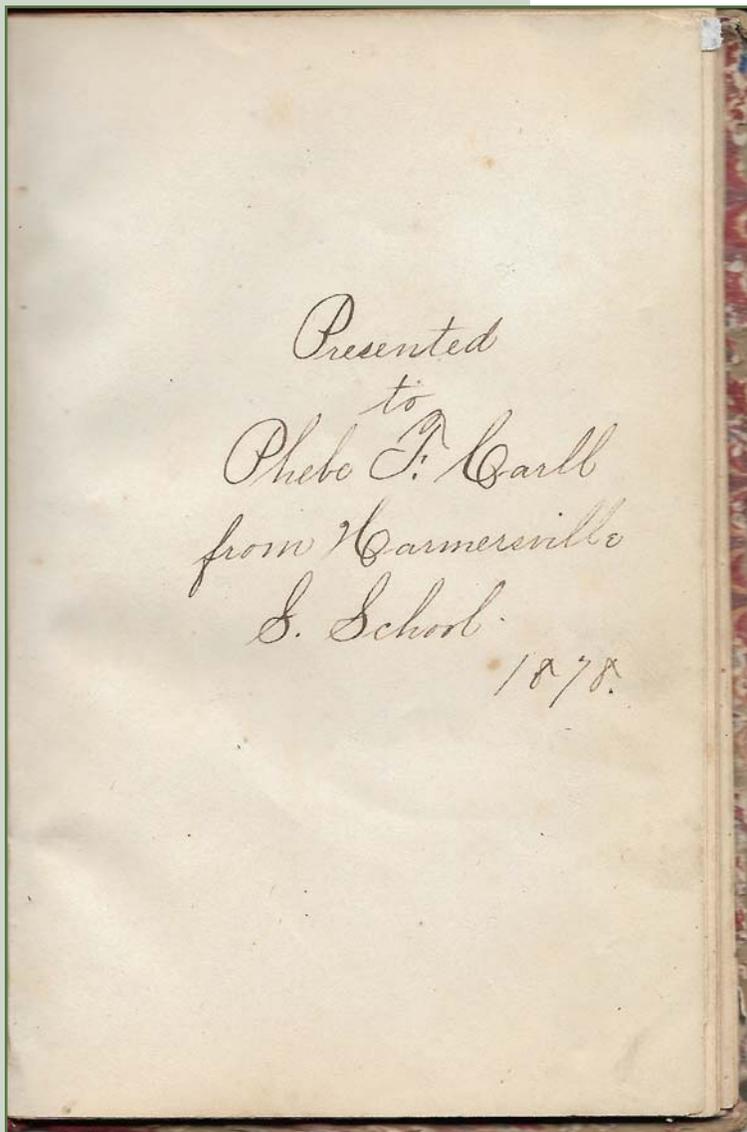
Jesse and Lucetta Carll



parents were Jesse P. Carll, a farmer and direct descendant of the earliest Carll settlers, and his second wife, Lucetta Mills.

According to the introduction, *The Talking Bible* is the story of a “man of learning, a philosopher, and a great reader of books” who began to think that “all his knowledge would be of little use to him if he lost his reason or if his life should suddenly end.” He told a friend about his concerns and the friend “opened him to the precious

doctrines of the Bible.” The book then presents a dialogue between the man and the (talking) Bible. Reading the book myself, I found their conversation about sin, repentance, and salvation interesting and thought-provoking. I’m not sure it would have been the same for an 11-year-old trying to envision



the Bible having a Q&A session with a mere mortal about such heady topics.

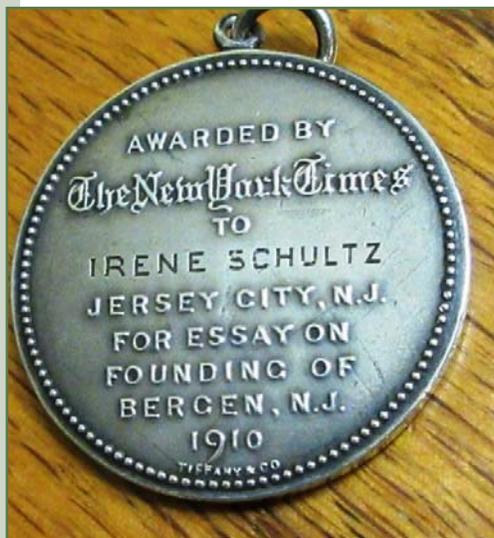
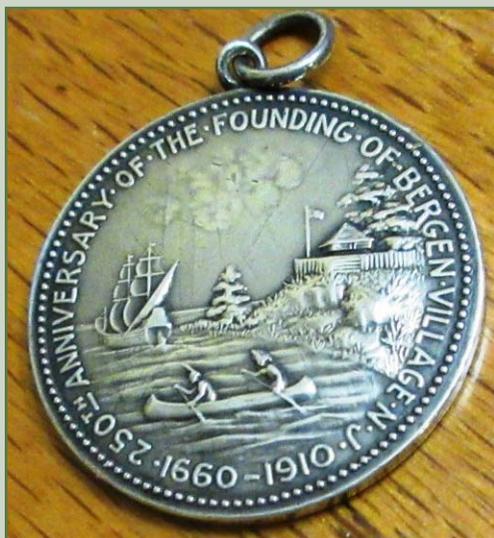
Phebe married Jonathan Robinson in 1894. Jonathan worked as a butcher at the Hires Company Store for many years until suffering a debilitating stroke. He and Phebe had three daughters. Phebe died in 1921 at the age of fifty-four.

ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO, I purchased a commemorative sterling silver medal made by Tiffany & Company in 1910. It had a connection to Jersey City and the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of Bergen Village (1660–1910). The front of the medal has a detailed depiction of a sailing ship approaching shore near a fort. The reverse has raised lettering indicating that the medal was awarded by the *New York Times* to Irene Schultz, Jersey City, NJ for her essay on the founding of Bergen. Under that, in very tiny lettering is "Tiffany & Co."

Research in newspaper archives turned up several articles in *The Jersey Journal* and *The New York Times* about an essay contest sponsored by the *Times* for Jersey City school children (public, parochial and private) as part of the anniversary celebrations. Five hundred essay winners were to be awarded silver medals from

Tiffany & Company. Five hundred contestants were to receive engraved certificates of merit. Prior to submitting their essays, the students were instructed to read a series of seven articles about Bergen history written by Daniel Van Winkle and to be published in the *Times* in October 1910. Irene Schultz was one of the five hundred silver medal winners.

Irene Schultz was born in 1898 in what was then called "Russian Poland." Irene's father immigrated to America in 1899 according to census records and worked as a silk weaver for decades after his arrival. Irene, her younger sister, and their mother arrived in the United States to join him in





Helen, Pel, Irene, and Edward Schultz

1901. Just nine years later, Irene wrote a prize-winning essay about the history of her new home. By 1915, the Schultz family had moved to Brooklyn. In 1923, Irene married Peter Yolles, a Polish journalist who immigrated to America in 1921 and became the editor of the Polish language newspaper *Nowy Swiat* for many years. Irene was active in charitable organizations and projects including those for Polish relief. She passed away in 1967 in Queens, New York.

With this being my 36th and last column for *Garden State Legacy*, I want to thank Gordon Bond for the opportunity to contribute to GSL for the last nine years. It was a privilege to be associated with such an excellent history publication and to be able to share my genealogical wanderings and stories with GSL readers. I know that GSL will be missed. I would also like to thank my readers, especially those who reached out to me to tell me how much they enjoyed my articles and those who became or referred genealogy clients. Some of you met me at my presentations and became GSL readers, others were GSL readers who later attended some of my programs. It was a pleasure to cross paths and

exchange stories of genealogy adventures and discoveries. God bless, stay safe and well.

- Maureen

