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### Augustana Digital Commons Citation

Simon, Tom and Jackson, Trenton. "Augustana Seniors Fall 1884: William Mering Reck" (2017). *Augustana Seniors Fall 1884 (Class of 1885)*.

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# **Augustana Seniors Fall 1884: William Mering Reck**

**Tom Simon  
Trenton Jackson  
7 February 2016**

## William Mering Reck

William Reck was born in 1865, in Rochester, Pennsylvania<sup>1</sup>. He began school at Augustana College in 1881 and graduated in 1885<sup>2</sup>. After graduation, William Reck stayed in Rock Island where he was a resident and worked at L.S. McCabe Department Store. Around 1914, he left Rock Island and headed to Sebring, Florida where he joined up with a similar business<sup>3</sup>. William Reck's father was Henry Reck, who worked at Augustana from 1871-1880. His father began his career at Augustana as head of the Philosophy Department, during that same year, he offered Augustana's first ever science class. In 1872 Henry Reck was the chairman of the Search Committee, where he looked for a new place for Augustana's campus. He decided on Rock Island, IL, where Augustana stands today<sup>4</sup>. Henry then died from being extremely sick on his father's farm in Adanis County, Pennsylvania on 27 Oct 1881.

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<sup>1</sup> "United States Census, 1880," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MXK8-3P5> : 14 July 2016), William Reck in household of Henry Reck, Rock Island, Rock Island, Illinois, United States; citing enumeration district ED 258, sheet 592C, NARA microfilm publication T9 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.), roll 0246; FHL microfilm 1,254,246.

<sup>2</sup> *Augustana College Catalog 1884–1885*, p. 12–13, volume bound in *Augustana College Catalogue 1871–1891*, Aug. Inst., LD 271, A6651, C3, 1871–1891; Augustana College, Special Collections, Rock Island, Illinois. All the students in the senior class are listed with birthplaces and year of birth.

<sup>3</sup> "Alumni", *Augustana Observer*, (1 May 1914), p 46a; image copy, Augustana College ([www.augustana.edu](http://www.augustana.edu)), Augustana College Library, Special Collections, Digital Project, *Augustana Observer and Rocky –I Database*, (<http://edu.arcasearch.com/usilaugcd/> : accessed 8 December 2016. This article mentions Alumni of Augustana .

<sup>4</sup> Bluemle, Stefanie R., Sarah M. Horowitz, and Jamie L. Nelson. *Reflecting on the past : 150 Years of Augustana Stories*. Rock Island, IL: Thomas Tredway Library, 2011. Print.

According to the 1880 census William Reck had three brothers and one sister. William was the oldest, followed by Henry, Marion, his one sister, Warren, and lastly Charles. According to the census, he lived in Pennsylvania with his siblings, his father Henry, and mom Ana until sometime around 1870, before the birth of youngest brother Charles<sup>5</sup>. In addition, the 1920 census said William, his wife Anna, and his daughter Winifred lived in a lodging center headed by Jessie L Davis<sup>6</sup>. The lodging center was located in De Soto, Florida. At the time the lodging center hosted the Davis family, one Kellogg, the Clark family, one Todd, one Long, and one Chapman<sup>7</sup>. In the 1930 census it stated that William, at age 64, lived in Highland, Florida with his son Herbert and Herbert's wife Letta. Herbert and Letta had two daughters named Letta and Josephine. They also had two sons named Herbert Jr. and Ryland<sup>8</sup>. While searching the Augustana Observer, it was noted that his daughter also attended Augustana College in 1918 and she was part of the Commercial Department<sup>9</sup>. Her quote as stated in the document,

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<sup>5</sup> "United States Census, 1880," database with images, *FamilySearch*

<sup>6</sup> "United States Census, 1920," database with images, *FamilySearch*(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MNY8-492> : accessed 24 January 2017), William Reck in household of Jessie L Davis, Avon Park, De Soto, Florida, United States; citing ED 23, sheet 6B, line 60, family 164, NARA microfilm publication T625 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1992), roll 217; FHL microfilm 1,820,217

<sup>7</sup> "United States Census, 1920," database with images, *FamilySearch*

<sup>8</sup> "United States Census, 1930," database with images, *FamilySearch*(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:ST99-TPZ> : accessed 24 January 2017), William M Reck in household of Herbert F R Reck, Avon Park, Highlands, Florida, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 1, sheet 15A, line 22, family 34, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 318; FHL microfilm 2,340,053.

<sup>9</sup> "Commercial Department", Augustana Observer, (1918) p 124-125; image copy Augustana College ([www.augustana.edu](http://www.augustana.edu)), Augustana College Library, Special Collections, Digital Project, Augustana Observer and Rocky –I Database, ( <http://edu.arcasearch.com/usilaugcd/> : accessed 23 January 2017

“Gentle of speech, beneficent of kind”. She attended Augustana College all the way from Sebring, Florida.

In Conclusion, after searching on FindAGrave, William died on 20 Jan 1946 and his buried in Highlands County, Florida<sup>10</sup>. From finding grave it also lead us to his wife and son. Anna, his wife, died ten years later on 7 Dec 1956 and is also buried in Highland County, Florida<sup>11</sup>. Herbert, the son of William and Anna, died on 3 May 1972 and is buried in Naples Collier County, Florida<sup>12</sup>. We have yet to find his father’s burial site or his mother’s. We also have not found his daughter’s, Winifred, burial site.

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<sup>10</sup> "William Mering Reck (1865 - 1946) - Find A Grave Memorial." *William Mering Reck (1865 - 1946) - Find A Grave Memorial*. N.p., n.d. Web. 23 Jan. 2017. <  
<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=reck&GSfn=william&GSby=1865&GSbyrel=in&GSdyrel=all&GSob=n&GRid=117169748&df=all&>>.

<sup>11</sup> "William Mering Reck (1865 - 1946) - Find A Grave Memorial."

<sup>12</sup> "William Mering Reck (1865 - 1946) - Find A Grave Memorial."

## Ancestors of William Mering Reck

### Generation 1

1. William Reck. For more information see Biography in main Part

### Generation 2

1. Henry Reck was born on 24 August 1829 in Adams County Pennsylvania.<sup>13</sup> Henry worked at Augustana from 1871-1880.

3. Anna Rebecca Mering, born October 11, 1832<sup>14</sup>

### Generation 3

4. Samuel D Reck 22 October 1797 York County, Pennsylvania. <sup>15</sup>He died on 1 November 1887 in Mt. Joy Township, Addams County Pennsylvania<sup>16</sup>

5. Sara R. Clutz born 27 November 1796 She died on 17 April 1876<sup>17</sup>.

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<sup>13</sup> Bluemle, Stefanie R., Sarah M. Horowitz, and Jamie L. Nelson. *Reflecting on the past : 150 Years of Augustana Stories*. Rock Island, IL: Thomas Tredway Library, 2011. Print.

<sup>14</sup> The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, "Pedigree Resource File," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/2:2:9ZHP-NLG> : accessed 2017- 01-30), entry for Anna Rebecca Mering , (Mehring), submitted by jamehring2748261.

<sup>15</sup> The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, "Pedigree Resource File," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/2:2:9ZH5-Q7J> : accessed 2017- 01-30), entry for Samuel D. Reck , (Rek), submitted by jamehring2748261.

<sup>16</sup> The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, "Pedigree Resource File," database, *FamilySearch* Samuel D. Reck

<sup>17</sup> The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, "Pedigree Resource File," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/2:2:9ZH5-Q76> : accessed 2017- 01-30), entry for Sarah R. Clutz, submitted by jamehring2748261.

6. William Mering born on 9 July 1802 in Bruceville, Carroll County, Maryland<sup>18</sup> He died on 16 March 1856 in Maryland<sup>19</sup>.

7. Mary Ann Sykes Chapman born on 17 March 1803<sup>20</sup> She died on 7 March 1889<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, "Pedigree Resource File," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/2:2:9ZHP-N2Y> : accessed 2017- 01-30), entry for William Mering , (Mehring), submitted by jamehring2748261.

<sup>19</sup> The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, "Pedigree Resource File," database, *FamilySearch* *William Mering*

<sup>20</sup> The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, "Pedigree Resource File," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/2:2:9ZHP-NLQ> : accessed 2017- 01-30), entry for Mary Ann Sykes Chapman, submitted by jamehring2748261.

<sup>21</sup> The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, "Pedigree Resource File," database, *FamilySearch* Mary Ann Sykes Chapman

# Descendants of William Mering Reck

## ***Generation 1***

1. William Mering Reck. William married Anna Mary Titzel. William and Anna had a child.

+2. Herbert Fritz R. Reck.

## ***Generation 2***

2. Herbert Fritz R. Reck. Herbert was born 3 August 1889 in Rock Island, Illinois<sup>22</sup>. Herbert died 3 May 1972, in Naples, Collier County, Florida<sup>23</sup>. Herbert had a stepson William C. Forsythe<sup>24</sup>.

Herbert had children.

3. Herbert F. R. Reck Jr<sup>25</sup>.

4. William R. Reck<sup>26</sup>.

+5. Letta Reck<sup>27</sup>.

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<sup>22</sup> "United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K35D-G8K> : 12 December 2014), Herbert F R Reck, 1917-1918; citing De Soto County, Florida, United States, NARA microfilm publication M1509 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm 1,556,883.

<sup>23</sup> "Florida Death Index, 1877-1998," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VV7Z-ZBL> : 25 December 2014), Herbert Fritz Reck, 03 May 1972; from "Florida Death Index, 1877-1998," index, *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : 2004); citing vol. , certificate number 32269, Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Records, Jacksonville. 3 Princeton Alumni Weekly, Princeton University Press, Volume 43, number 31 (21 May 1943), Page 10; Google Books ([books.google.com](http://books.google.com) : accessed January 2017); paragraph transcription of correspondence from Herb Reck.

<sup>24</sup> Princeton Alumni Weekly Volume 43, number 31 (21 May 1943), Page 10; correspondence from Herb Reck

<sup>25</sup> Princeton Alumni Weekly Volume 43, number 31 (21 May 1943), Page 10; correspondence from Herb Reck

<sup>26</sup> Princeton Alumni Weekly Volume 43, number 31 (21 May 1943), Page 10; correspondence from Herb Reck

<sup>27</sup> Princeton Alumni Weekly Volume 43, number 31 (21 May 1943), Page 10; correspondence from Herb Reck



### ***Generation 3***

5. Letta Reck. Letta married Brunk<sup>28</sup>. Letta and Brunk had a child.

### **Generation 4**

6. Living Brunk<sup>29</sup>.

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<sup>28</sup> Princeton Alumni Weekly Volume 43, number 31 (21 May 1943), Page 10; correspondence from Herb Reck

<sup>29</sup> Princeton Alumni Weekly Volume 43, number 31 (21 May 1943), Page 10; correspondence from Herb Reck

## Questions for Further Research

The first question we would like to look into more depth is why is dad began teaching at Augustana college. As of now we have not been able to find any of that information out. Following up with his dad we would also like to know why he moved the college to Rock Island, Illinois from where it used to be.

The second question we would like to further seek is what all of his kids ended up doing. We know so far that Winifred went and graduated from Augustana while her grandfather was still a professor at the school. However so far we do not know what she ended up doing after the graduation. We would also like to know what Herbert after graduating from Princeton University.

The third thing we would like to find more information about is why William moved to Seabring, Florida. We found an article in the Augustana Observer that mentions he moved there to pursue an opportunity to work at a convenient store. We also discovered he became the first president of The Chamber of Commerce in Seabring. We would like to know the specific details on why he moved away from Rock Island to Florida.

We have created a record for William Mering Reck in the Family Tree on *FamilySearch*. The record locator is LRZ2-6JH

## Source list

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"Herbert F R Reck." *Free Family History and Genealogy Records - FamilySearch.org*. N.p., n.d. Web. 23 Jan. 2017.

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