

The Royce Quarterly

Winter 2025

A Publication of the Royce Family Association (RFA)

Volume 38 Number 1

Royce Family Association Website @ roycefamillyassociation.org.

Co-Editor's Note: The Winter 2025 issue includes an account of a Royce ancestor living in Iowa who commits a crime of passion. Written by member David Stearns, it is full of twists and turns, one more intriguing than the other. Kate Renner also presents an in depth look at the at the occupation of ancestor Robert Royce (1605-1676) who was a shoemaker (Cordwainer) by trade. The Royce Family Association financial statement for 2024 is included on page 23.

DON'T FORGET to CHECK OUT the NEW and IMPROVED: Royce Family Association Website @ roycefamillyassociation.org.

And

The Royce Family Association is Now on Facebook! A Facebook group called Royce Family Association
(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1127883208081516>)

ROYCE FAMILY ASSOCIATION DUES COLLECTION FOR 2025

Attention Cousins!

It is a new year and time to renew your Royce Family Association dues for 2025. Many of you have done so already. If you are unsure, email Kate (k8renmayo@gmail.com) or log in to our website, go to “My Account” in the top menu bar, then to “My Subscriptions” which is on the left side of the next page.

Then click on the green “Active” button to see when you last paid dues. If there is nothing there, then it is time for you to pay dues. RFA dues cover January 1 through December 31 of 2025. It's easy to do on our website roycefamiliyassociation.org. Go to “Become A Member” at the top of the home page. At the bottom of that page is a button to click to “pay membership.” **Our dues have not been increased for decades.**

For the low price of \$15 a year, you receive four newsletters annually and access to the entire website roycefamiliyassociation.org. And you will be supporting our association's efforts to advance research on Robert Royce and his descendants.

The Royce Family Association has 77 dues paying members. We have 61 members in the Royce Family Association Facebook group but not all are RFA members. We have 92 users and 153 kits in our Gedmatch Ancestor Project for Royce/Rice and not all are RFA members. If you have done a DNA test anywhere, consider uploading it for Gedmatch (it's free) and joining the Ancestor Project.

RFA Website Update by Kate Renner

Traffic to our RFA website in 2024 produced 13 members, all new to the organization. Membership renewals as of early February number 16 via online dues payments at our website. Others have been paid by check. Wix, the platform that provides automated management for our website, allows people to “subscribe” to our website, which both members or non-members can do. Subscribers opt in to our mailing list. We have 16 subscribers who are non-members and as secretary, I periodically generate an email to sustain interest, like announcing an upcoming newsletter publication. We also have 4 non-members who are not subscribers and I include them in the periodic emails unless they request unsubscribing. And we have 40 existing members who are in the “never subscribed” category. That is because when we launched the website, I preloaded our membership as contacts and did not make them subscribers. If you would like to change your status to subscriber, please email me and I will make that change. So far, as a rule, we have not generated many emails to subscribers

A Royce Rapsallion

By David Stearns with helpful editing by Cindy Royce December 14, 2024

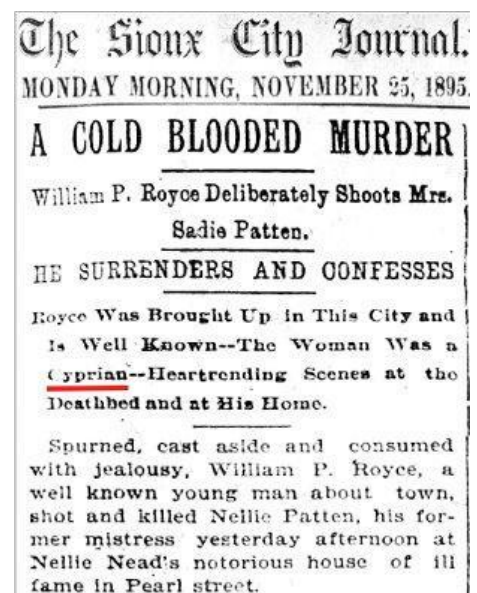


William Paschal Royce
The_Sioux_City_Journal_Nov 25, 1895, p.1
From a sketch made at the police station.

The Crime

In the afternoon of November 24, 1895, in the town of Sioux City, Iowa, fueled by a heated jealous passion, William Paschal Royce rented a .38 caliber S&W revolver, went to the house of ill repute where his mistress, Nellie Patten, lived and shot her twice; causing mortal wounds to which she succumbed an hour later. Royce next tried to shoot the madam of the house and another woman, but the gun failed to fire. He ran down the stairs into the back alley and, instead of trying to escape, headed to the police station a few blocks away and turned himself in. He confessed to everything he had done and the police took him into custody.

Nellie Patten, 24, had been Royce's mistress for the past several years but still plied her trade at Nellie Nead's Sporting Resort on Pearl Street and had taken another man, Will Welch, a bartender, as her lover. William had spent considerable amounts of money helping her with an operation, food, clothing and assistance for her daughter; whom she had with her estranged husband Oliver Patten. The Pattens were separated but not divorced, and the daughter, Orpha Loretta, was adopted by Henry Hendrickson, a local farmer. Apparently, William felt that Nellie owed him some form of allegiance, but she did not share that view.



The Sioux City Journal, Nov 26, 1895, p1

This was precisely the relationship between Nellie, the above-mentioned “Cyprian”, and William, “the gentleman.” William wasn’t wealthy but did spend money on Nellie. Apparently, he had dreams of marrying her, but she seems to have viewed him as just a benefactor.

William Paschal Royce, a well-known young man about the town of Sioux City, was the son of Paschal P. Royce of Syracuse, New York and Anna Eliza Langley of England. Paschal was a respected businessman in Detroit and Sioux City where he owned a bakery business that specialized in crackers. William would have followed in his father’s enterprise but, unfortunately, his father died when William was just five years old. Consequently, William was unable to acquire a higher education and floundered around Sioux City doing menial jobs and becoming more and more involved with nefarious characters, whiskey, drugs, and prostitutes. This period of Sioux City’s history from 1880 to 1910 was full of wickedness and lawlessness. The term “Saturday night in Sioux City” was jokingly used by many to describe situations of pandemonium. (“It woulda been Saturday Night in Sioux City,” quote from the movie *Angel and the Badman* starring John Wayne in 1949).

Nellie Patton was born Sarah J. Rush (a.k.a. Rouche) in Keokuk, Iowa in the year 1868. She died of gunshot wounds November 24, 1895 at the age of 27. Her parents were Henson Rush, born 1838 in Virginia, and Tamar Harriet Landers, born 1847 in Indiana, who lived in Van Meter, Iowa at the time of the shooting. Sarah went by the nickname of Nellie and was also known as Nellie Brookman or Constance Roushe, as reported by the Sioux City Journal the day after the incident. Nellie married Oliver Patten, a carpenter, in December 1886 in Van Meter, Iowa. They had one daughter, Orpha Loretta, born in 1888 in Dallas county, Iowa. Oliver continued to live in Dallas county and apparently had no further contact with Nellie. Why she left, abandoned her daughter, and headed for Sioux City is unknown. She never had time to tell her story before she died.

The Preliminary Hearings

Royce was detained at the Police Station after turning himself in. On the day of the murder, the coroner held a post-mortem examination to verify the cause of death and later held an inquest where witnesses were called in to testify in front of a jury. Among those called were Nellie Nead, the owner of the “sporting house,” Billy Nead, her husband, several girls who lived in the establishment, and William Royce, the accused murderer. The next day, a hearing was held at the police court and Royce pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity due to his cigarette habit. He waived his right to a preliminary hearing. He was represented by an attorney who instructed Royce to not testify. Some tenuous insanity defenses were considered, all having to do with various drugs. Around the turn of the century, being a ‘Cigarette Fiend’ was a legitimate defense for murder.

JURY IS NON-COMMITTAL

Avoids Saying that William P. Royce Murdered Nellie Patten.

LEAVES THAT FOR GRAND JURY

The Murderer Pleads Not Guilty in the Police Court and Will Make a Defense on the Ground of Insanity--Royce Grows Very Nervous in Jail.

William P. Royce, Nellie Patten's murderer, will set up a defense on the ground of insanity.

Daily Inter Ocean 1895-11-26 p1, Chicago, IL

BLAMES IT ON CIGARETTES.

Murderer of Constant Roush Pleads Nicotine Madness.

Sioux City, Iowa, Nov. 25.—William P. Royce, when arraigned today for the murder of Constant Roush, alias Nelli Patton, formerly of Van Meter, Iowa, whom he shot yesterday, entered a plea of insanity due to the cigarette habit.

The Sioux City Journal, Nov 26, 1895, p.5

Daily Inter Ocean (Chicago), Nov 26 1895, p.

“AT THE DAWN OF THE 20th century, the United States fell victim to an incredibly dangerous drug. Children were easy prey for the menace, one so toxic that even casual use turned the most mild-mannered man into a criminal maniac. “The brain becomes sluggish ... at the same time the mind is full of wild fancies,” wrote Dr. Carlton Simon in the New York Journal. “The actions are not guided by the will. Normal deeds vanish, and theft, murder and other horrible crimes result.”

What was this frightening Jekyll-and-Hyde drug? The “dope stick.” The “coffin tack”? The lowly cigarette. Philip Morris came to New York in 1902 and introduced Marlboros, manufactured (like all cigs of the time) from bits and bobs left over from producing other tobacco products. Nicotine was already established in medical research as a deadly poison, but exactly how it affected the human body was up for debate. (Some pioneers did voice a concern over “cigarette cough” and possible correlations to heart disease.) One thing everyone seemed to agree on, however, was that it ruined the mind, creating the “cigarette fiend—a deplorable soul whose habit “sapped the moral and mental life of its devotee.”

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/in-the-1900s-being-a-cigarette-fiend-was-a-legitimate-defense-for-murder>

Today, cigarettes would not be considered as a legitimate defense for murder, but it was acceptable at the time of Royce's murder of Nellie Patten.

Another potential insanity defense considered by the defense was his alleged use of laudanum.

Intended to Kill Himself.

When the police searched Royce's overcoat at the police station a bottle of laudanum was found in one of the outside overcoat pockets. The officers are of the opinion that Royce intended to drink the contents after he had dispatched the girl and destroy his own life. The police do not believe that Royce is insane, but believed that he deliberately planned to kill Nellie Pat-ten and commit suicide. After shoot-
ing the woman he got rattled and went directly to the police station and gave himself up.

The Sioux City Journal, Nov 26, 1895, p5



The Lure of Laudanum, the Victorians' Favorite Drug, Laudanum

Photo from <https://www.joyceproject.com>

Laudanum has been called "the Victorian's Favorite Drug". It contains 40% alcohol with a tincture of Opium and was widely distributed during the 1800's. It could be purchased just about anywhere from taverns, barbers, and tobacco stores, to grocers. It was used as a medicine for pain and even given to children. It is addictive, of course, and overdoses can be lethal. Apparently, Royce either planned to commit suicide by overdose or he used it to provide the courage needed to carry out his intended murder. A couple days later a reporter interviewed William Royce in his cell at the county jail. Royce refuted the claim that laudanum was found in his coat pocket but admitted to being a morphine addict.

Royce Is Cheerful.

A reporter of The Journal called on Wm. P. Royce, the slayer of Nellie Pat-ten, at the county jail yesterday "Oh, I feel pretty fair..... The doctor took my morphine away from me, and that always leaves me in a very nervous state. I have used it ever since I was at the Hot Springs for my health. I contracted the habit there, and never have been able to stop the habit. I wish you would say for me that the story about me having laudanum in the pocket of that overcoat is wrong, because I never did have any, and there was none in that coat."

November 29, 1895 p5, The Sioux City Journal

THE SAINT PAUL DAILY GLOBE:
THURSDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 28, 1895.

IOWA LYNCHERS.

Threat to Kill a Murderer and a Saloonkeeper.

SIoux CITY, Io., Nov. 27.—There was much excitement in this town last night over reports of a plot to lynch W. P. Royce, who murdered Nellie Pat-ten last Sunday, and Billy Nead, the proprietor of a resort where the crime was committed. The sheriff and police have prepared for the attack and will meet it if necessary with desperate resistance.

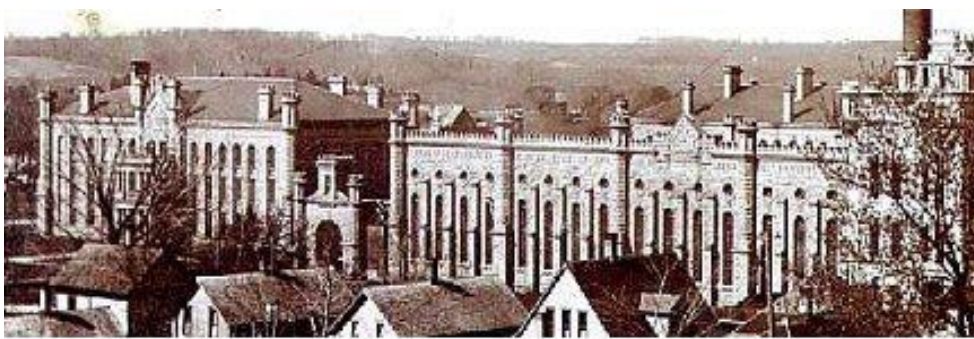
The Saint Paul Daily Globe,, Thursday Nov 28, 1895

While in the county jail, William was weaned off his morphine habit by being given Methylsulfonylmethane, or Sulfonal, as it is commonly known. This compound helped him to sleep and reduce his doses of morphine. He explained that his morphine habit was acquired when he visited the hot springs to help with his health. After the coroner's examination, the Police Station court, and the hearing, William Royce was taken to the county jail where he awaited his trial with the grand jury. Some had sympathy for Royce but others did not. Had it not been for the police being alert to goings on in the city, he might have been lynched.

The Trial and Sentence

Finally, after waiting a little over four months in the Woodbury county jail in Sioux City, William's trial took place. He was charged with second degree murder and initially planned to plead not guilty. Later, and against his attorney's advice, Royce pleaded guilty in order to spare his mother and sisters the embarrassment and agony of hearing about his murderous deed and background of drugs, whiskey, and women.

After Royce's guilty plea to second degree murder, there was no need for a lengthy trial. He was sentenced shortly thereafter to seventeen and a half years in the state penitentiary at Anamosa, Iowa. There was some sympathy for him since he had a clean record, and his mother sobbed throughout the trial. One wonders why he wasn't charged and convicted of first-degree murder, since it was clear that Royce planned the murder beforehand when he admitted to renting the pistol. He even signed a confession to the police. There may have been a plea deal but there were no reports of such an agreement in the newspapers. Typical sentences for first degree murder during the decade of 1890 to 1900, were either death by hanging or imprisonment for life. William P. Royce was taken to the penitentiary in Anamosa, Iowa on the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railway.



Iowa State Penitentiary at Anamosa, ca 1890
Built between 1875-1899. <http://www.asphistory.com/oldclassics.htm>

THE CHICAGO CHRONICLE,
TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 31, 1896.

WILLIAM ROYCE PLEADS GUILTY.

**Sioux City Man Indicted for Murder Makes
No Defense.**

SIoux CITY, Iowa, March, 30.—William P. Royce, who was under indictment for the murder of Nellie Patten, his former mistress, on Sunday, Nov. 24, 1895, this morning pleaded guilty to murder in the second degree.

The case was set for trial today and his plea was a surprise. He acted against the judgment of his attorneys, who intended to set up "emotional insanity" as a defense. They would have attempted to show that jealousy and excessive use of morphine, whisky and cigarettes had temporarily unbalanced his mind.

He will be sentenced by Judge Ladd on April 8.

ROYCE LEAVES FOR ANAMOSA

**Together With Sheriff Davenport and a
Reporter for the Journal.**

HIS UNCONCERNED APPEARANCE

**It Was Unchanged Up to the Time of His
Departure—Story of His Crime and the
Events Which Led to His Sentence—
The Lysle Case.**

William P. Royce left with Sheriff Davenport and a reporter for The Journal over the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railway at 5 o'clock last evening for Anamosa, where he will begin his sentence of seventeen years and six months.

The Chicago Chronicle, Tuesday, March 31, 1896

*November 4, 1896, p5. - The Sioux City
Journal*

RECEIVES LIGHT SENTENCE

**Judge Ladd Passes Judgment Upon Will-
iam P. Royce.**

SEVENTEEN YEARS AND A HALF

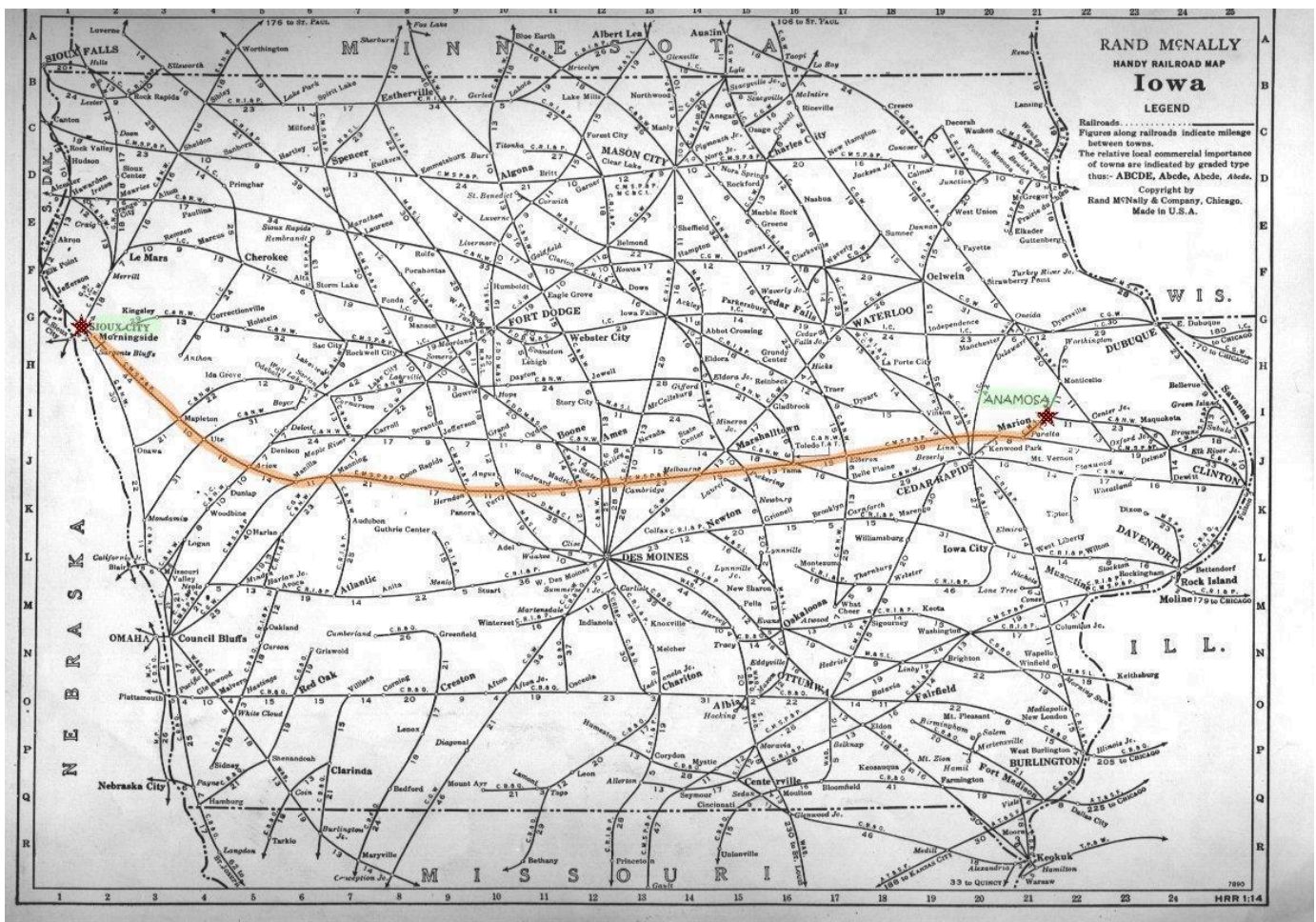
**This Is the Penalty Pronounced--Can Be
Reduced to Ten Years by Good Behavior
--Geo. W. Argo's Speech in Royce's
Behalf--Other Court Matters.**

The closing chapter of the murder of Nellie Patten was enacted at 2:45 p. m. yesterday when Judge Scott M. Ladd sentenced William P. Royce, the man who fired the fatal shot, to serve a term of seventeen years and six months in the state penitentiary at Anamosa. By good behavior Royce can reduce this sentence to exactly ten years.

*The Sioux City Journal, Friday April 10, 1896, p5
November 4, 1896, p5. - The Sioux City Journal*



Typical M, C & S.P.P train circa 1909 <https://westbyhistory.blogspot.com/2014/04/>



Railroad map of Iowa showing Milwaukee Chicago and St. Paul route from Sioux City to Anamosa

Royce became a model prisoner at Anamosa and incurred not a single demerit. He learned the trade of electrician and became the chief electrician at the penitentiary in charge of all the wiring at the prison's main electric plant.

The Parole and Pardon

Meanwhile, his distraught mother was working to get him released. He was put on parole only four years and a few months after he was sentenced.

According to the Sioux City Journal, "The parole was secured largely through the efforts of Sheriff Jackson, who is out of the city. Mr. Jackson was persuaded to take up the matter on account of Royce's mother, who has been grieving her heart out. Sheriff Jackson went to Des Moines and talked with Gov. Shaw about the case. He

According to the Sioux City Journal, "The parole was secured largely through the efforts of Sheriff Jackson, who is out of the city. Mr. Jackson was persuaded to take up the matter on account of Royce's mother, who has been grieving her heart out. Sheriff Jackson went to Des Moines and talked with Gov. Shaw about the case. He told the governor of the terrible condition Royce's mind was in at the time of the murder, how his general health had been wrecked by the excessive use of cigarettes, and his indulgence in narcotics. The governor finally told Mr. Jackson the conditions upon which he would agree to parole Royce. They were that the recommendation of certain prominent citizens of Sioux City be secured, that Royce's prison record be shown to be perfect, and that he pledge himself to totally abstain from the use of narcotics or stimulants of any kind. Mr. Jackson followed instructions. He secured to the petition the signatures of Geo. D. Perkins, Craig L. Wright., L. L. Kellogg, E. H. Hubbard, T. F. Bevington, all the county and city officers and others. The endorsement of the prison authorities also was secured."

The Sioux City Journal, August 15, 1900.

PAROLE GRANTED TO ROYCE

**Condition of His Mind When He Shot
Nellie Patten Considered.**

GIFT TO HEARTBROKEN MOTHER

**Gov. Shaw's Action Was on Condition
of Royce Refraining from Narcotics
and Liquor on Recommendation of
Business Men.**

1900_08_15 p3., *The_Sioux_City_Journal*.

All Iowa, U.S., Consecutive Registers of Convicts, 1867-1970

William was paroled and returned to Sioux City on August 8, 1900 after serving about four years and five months of his seventeen and a half year sentence. Granted, he was a model prisoner and vowed to abstain from alcohol and illegal drugs, but he got off pretty easy after taking the life of a young woman who had a daughter.

The Register and Leader.

DES MOINES, IOWA, WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 30, 1903.

HAS THIS MAN BEEN REFORMED?

The above question was asked by the Des Moines Register and it probably was on the minds of many people in Sioux City who lived through the murder and trial of William P. Royce. It's a very legitimate question and, well....was he?

The answer is yes. Over the years Royce proved himself to be reformed and rehabilitated. Because of his training as an electrician at the penitentiary, He secured employment with Sioux City Gas and Electric. He held this job until he died in 1940. He led an honest and clean life and was a valuable and dependable employee, husband and father. William was even granted a pardon by the Iowa Board of Pardons in 1904 largely due to the efforts of Mr. L. L. Kellogg, a manager of Sioux City Gas and Electric. Royce had an exemplary record with the company and Kellogg was largely responsible for obtaining his pardon.

RECORD OF CONVICTS.									
No.	NAME	COUNTY FROM	CRIME	TERM	When Committed	AGE	Complexion		
3334	W.P. Royce	Woodbury	Murder 2 nd Degree	17 1/2 "	1896 from Apr 9.	24	Light		

PENITENTIARY AT ANAMOSA.										117
SEX	NATIVITY	OCCUPATION	Mental Culture	Religious Education	HABITS	SOCIAL STATE	Commitments	Date of Expulsion with Discretion	WHEN AND HOW DISCHARGED	
	Iowa	Baker	Good	Episcopal	Intemperate	Single	First	Apr 8-1906	1900 disp. sent	

The "Strange Romance"

Meanwhile, he began looking for Loretta, the daughter of his victim, Nellie Patton.

The Shreveport Times reported, "Royce admits his first impulse as a free man was to make reparations, so far as possible, to the girl he had deprived of a mother. As soon as he had saved some money he started out to find the girl. He learned of her adoption into the family of Henry Hendrickson, a prosperous farmer near Hinton, Iowa. One Sunday he drove out there, and with some hesitation introduced himself.

Big hearted Henry Hendrickson sympathized with young William as he had with the child he had adopted. He took William into the house and introduced him. When William left he was invited to come again, and gradually his friendship (*with the young woman*) grew (*They fell in love and planned to marry*). Both viewed with dismay the sensation their marriage was sure to cause. But their love was strong enough to withstand the notoriety, and since their marriage the bride has been living in her home in Hinton, 12 miles from Sioux City, while Royce is hard at work here preparing a home." (Inserts in italics are by the author).

Shreveport Times, Shreveport, Louisiana,
August 17, 1906, page 5.

**POR1SMOUTH STAR;
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 1906.**

**GIVES HIS HEART
TO REPAIR MURDER**

**Strange Romance in Marriage
of Girl to Man Who Killed
Her Mother in His Youth.**

The romance flourished and William P. Royce and Loretta Orpha Patten/Hendrickson were married on July 6, 1906 in Le Mars, Plymouth County, Iowa, a town about 15 miles north of Hinton and 25 miles north of Sioux City. He was 33 and she was 19.

To the SECRETARY OF IOWA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH:
Return of Marriages in the County of *Plymouth*
75- 1136
For the Year Ending *December 31, 1907*

1 No. of License	1 By whom affidavit, if any, is made	3 Full Name of Groom	4 Groom's age next birthday	10 Groom's place of birth
2 Date of License	2 By whom consent to marriage is given	4 Place of Residence	7 Color	11 Groom's father's name
		5 Occupation	8 Race	12 Groom's mother's maiden name
1	1	3 <i>Wm. P. Royce</i>	6 years <i>33</i>	10 <i>Sioux City</i>
27/6-06	2	4 <i>Sioux City</i>	7 —	11 <i>Isabel P. Royce</i>
		5 <i>Gas. Engineer</i>	8 <i>W.</i>	12 <i>Ligia A. Langley</i>
14 Bride's age next birthday	15 Bride's place of birth	16 Bride's father's full name	17 Bride's mother's full maiden name	23 Where and when married
16 years <i>19</i>	15 <i>Sioux City</i>	16 <i>Oliver G. Patten</i>	17 <i>Isabel A. Patten</i>	24 Witnesses
17 —	18 Color <i>W.</i>	18 <i>Le Mars</i>	19 <i>July 6-1906</i>	25 By whom married, name and office
18 —	19 <i>W.</i>	20 <i>Thomas Hughes</i>	21 <i>H. G. Moore, Le Mars, Iowa</i>	1 Date of return
19 <i>W.</i>	20 <i>W.</i>	22 <i>W.</i>	23 <i>W.</i>	2 When registered
24 <i>W.</i>	25 <i>W.</i>	26 <i>W.</i>	27 <i>W.</i>	1 <i>8 22 06</i>
28 <i>W.</i>	29 <i>W.</i>	30 <i>W.</i>	31 <i>W.</i>	2 <i>1 17 07</i>

Iowa, U.S., Marriage
Records, 1880-1948,
Ancestry.com

William and Loretta had two children, to wit: Langley Louise, born 24 Oct 1908 and William Paschal, Jr., born 11 Jun 1917. Both children were born in Sioux City. They all lived with his mother in her home at 211 13th St. After the marriage, William dropped out of the public eye and little was written about him in newspapers until his death on October 17, 1940. He taught a class on First Aid to the Boy Scouts in 1928. He was active with the Boy Scouts and held a position on the Troop Committee (*The Sioux City Journal Sun*, Mar 31, 1929 ·Page 7). In 1933 he suffered minor injuries when he had to avoid a motor car and hit a billboard with his motorcycle (*The Sioux City Journal*, Monday July 10, 1933, page 8). In 1938 William was granted a permit to build a dwelling at the 211 13th St. location. It may have been an addition, a remodel or a new house at 209 13th St., on the vacant lot next door (*Sioux City Journal*, Nov 20, 1938 p.12).



211 Thirteenth St., Sioux City, Iowa

The Timeline Following William's Release From Prison

From census and other vital records, we find the following:

- 1910 US Census – William, 36, is living with his wife Loretta, 23, daughter Laurie 1 ½, and mother Eliza A., 80. William is a foreman for a gas company. They have been married five years. They are living at 209 13th St. and his mother at 211 13th St. Perhaps there was another dwelling in what is now a vacant lot next door.
- 1918, Sept 12 WWI Draft – William registered for the WWI Draft in Sioux City. He is 45 years old and was born November 6, 1872. He lives at 211 13th street (his mother's home) and works as a foreman for Sioux City Gas Company. His nearest relative is Loretta O. Royce, his wife.

- 1920 US Census – William, 48, is living with his wife Loretta, 31 and their children Laurie, 11 and William Jr, 3, and his mother Anna Eliza, 89. William is an engineer for an electric company.
- 1922 Divorce – William and Loretta divorce. Unfortunately, the marriage didn't last forever and they were divorced on March 9, 1922 in Sioux City. William brought the action to the court and from subsequent census reports it is evident that he was awarded the children. No newspaper article could be found about the divorce so the details are unknown. William charged Loretta with cruel and unusual treatment which could mean anything. Later, it was discovered that Loretta married Charles Hicks on 17 March 1922 only eight days after her divorce was final. One might suspect that they were having an affair and William found out about it. Otherwise, why would a mother abandon her two children?

13. Record of Divorces for the County of <i>Woodbury</i>									
No.	FULL NAME OF HUSBAND	COLOR	AGE	NATIONALITY	DATE OF MARRIAGE			No. OF PRIOR MARRIAGES	CAUSE OF DIVORCE
44430	<i>Royce, William P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>Eng Born</i>	<i>July 8</i>	<i>1906</i>		<i>None</i>	<i>Cruel & Inhuman Treat.</i>
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 19 <i>22</i>									
FULL NAME OF WIFE	COLOR	AGE	NATIONALITY	DATE OF DIVORCE			No. OF PRIOR MARRIAGES	TO WHOM DIVORCE GRANTED	
				MO.	DA.	YEAR		HUSBAND	WIFE
<i>Loretta J. Royce</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>French-Ind</i>	<i>Mar 9</i>	<i>1922</i>		<i>None</i>	<i>Husband</i>	

Iowa, Historical Society of Iowa, Divorce Records, 1906-1937

- 1924, Oct 30 – William's mother dies.

The Sioux City Journal
Fri, Oct 31, 1924 - Page 14

RESIDENT HERE 56 YEARS, DIES

**Mrs. E. A. Royce Was
Widow of S. C.'s First
Cracker Maker.**

Mrs. Eliza Ann Royce, 84 years old, died Thursday afternoon at the home of her son, Will P. Royce, at 211 Thirteenth street. She had been a resident of Sioux City for the past 56 years.

Mrs. Royce was born in the county of Kent, England, in January, 1820. A few years later she immigrated to the United States and located at Detroit, Mich. She was only a little past 18 years old when she married P. P. Royce. In 1868 Mr. and Mrs. Royce, with their children, moved to Sioux City, where Mr. Royce, with his brother, established the first cracker factory, with the firm name of P. P. and C. H. Royce. Mr. Royce died 45 years ago.

Mrs. Royce had been active until about three weeks ago, when she suffered a paralytic stroke.

Mrs. Royce is survived by her daughter, Mrs. W. E. Harden, of Lebanon, Ore., and Will P. Royce, 211 Thirteenth street, Sioux City.

The body is at West's Funeral Home pending funeral arrangements.

The Sioux City Journal
Sat, Nov 01, 1924 - Page 11

Last Rites Today for Mrs. E. A. Royce



Mrs. E. A. Royce.

Funeral services for Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Royce, 211 Thirteenth street, will be held this afternoon at West's Funeral Home at 2:30 o'clock. Rev. E. H. Gaynor will officiate. Interment will be in the Floyd cemetery. Mrs. Royce was the wife of the late P. P. Royce, prominent cracker manufacturer and contractor here in the 70s. She had been a resident of this city for the past 56 years, and was 84 years old when death called her after a stroke of paralysis.

The_Sioux_City_Journal_1924_10_31 page 14

- 1925 Iowa Census – William P Royce is 51 and is living with his daughter Langley L. Royce, 17, and son Will Royce, 8. He is divorced.
- 1930 US Census – William is 56, divorced, and living with his daughter Langley, 21 and son William, 12. He works as an engineer in the gas industry. They are still living at 211 13th St.
- 1940 US Census – William is 67, divorced and living with his daughter Langley, 31, single, and son William, 22, single. William works as a gas distributor foreman for the Public Service Company. William, Jr. works as a service man for the Public Service Co. Enumeration date: 30 April 1940.
- 1940 Oct 17 - William died on October 17, 1940 in Sioux City, Iowa and was buried in Floyd Cemetery. His obituary was found.

THE SIOUX CITY JOURNAL
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1940.

DEATH CLAIMS W. P. ROYCE

**Was Employe of Gas
and Electric Com-
pany 40 Years**

Death came to William P. ("Bill") Royce, 68, 211 13th street, Thursday in a Sioux City hospital following a brief sickness.


Funeral services will be held at 3 p. m. Saturday in Anderson's chapel. Rev. F. B. Shaner, pastor of St. Thomas' Episcopal church, will officiate. Interment will be in Floyd cemetery.

Mr. Royce was born in Sioux City November 6, 1872. A lifelong resident here, he was gas distribution foreman for the Sioux City Gas and Electric company for the last 40 years.

Survivors are a son, William, and a daughter, Miss Langley Royce, both of Sioux City.

Mr. Royce began work in 1900 as a machinist at the gas works and at that time it was necessary to work 365 days a year to maintain service.

Later he was transferred to the



W. P. Royce

construction and distribution departments.

During a period of high water here, Mr. Royce once recalled that seven miles of gas main and 1,000 meters were flooded. He watched all of the apparatus at the plant when he first began work gradually disappear to be supplanted by the more modern of equipment.

During Sioux City's big fire in the holiday season of 1904, he worked 56 consecutive hours maintaining service.

The Sioux City Journal, Friday, October 18, 1940

Genealogy Connections and Sources

This article is not intended to be a study of the genealogy of this branch of the Royce family but in order to be certain that William Paschal Royce descends from Robert Royce, the head of this family in America, a little genealogy will be included below. The descendancy for this branch of the Royce family is as follows:

- Robert Royce (~1605 - 1676)
- Jonathan Royce (~1638 -1689)
- Jonathan Royce (1678 - 1725)
- John Royce (1712 - 1760)
- Nehemiah Royce (1761 - 1817)
- William Royce (1792 - 1836)
- Paschal P. Royce (1828 - 1877)
- William Paschal Royce (1872 - 1940) - Our subject
- William Paschal Royce Jr. (1917 - 1993)
- William G. Royce (1948 - living)

The relationship of William P. Royce to Robert Royce can be established with reasonable certainty. For Robert, b. 1605; Jonathan, b. 1638; Jonathan b. 1678; John, b. 1712; and Nehemiah, b. 1761, see *The Royce Family in America* by Alvin Rhods, 2005. Alvin stopped with Nehemiah's son William and listed his son, Paschal, misspelled as Cascall, with no wife or children.

Sources for establishing the parent-child relationships from John Royce, 1712 to William Paschal Royce, 1872.

This section attempts to provide the most important evidence that establishes the parent - child relationships. The sources are not included here but have been found and duly verified.

John Royce 1712, son of Jonathan and Ruth Beckwith

1. Connecticut Church Abstracts

Nehemiah Royce 1761, son of John and Dorcas Root

1. Connecticut, U.S., Town Birth Records, pre-1870 (Barbour Collection)

William Royce 1792, son of Nehemiah and Cynthia Smith. His relationship to father Nehemiah Royce

1. William's Birth Record Vermont
2. Headstone (birth date and place of birth)

William married Louisa Kidd, nee Baldwin. No direct evidence of their marriage or even the birth of all their children could be found.

Paschal P. Royce 1828, son of William and Louisa Baldwin. There are no vital records. His relationship to his father, William Royce and mother Louisa Baldwin are based on indirect but reasonably good evidence plus one death certificate of

her daughter that mentions her mother's name. It is clearly established that William's wife was named "Louisa" and her maiden name was Baldwin.

Alvin Rhods shows the youngest son of William 1792 as "1305. Cascall". This is interpreted to be Paschal P. Royce.

567. William, son of Nehemiah (229) and Cynthia (Smith) Royce, was born 18 May 1792 ²⁴ at Orwell, Addison County, Vermont and died in 1836 at Oak Orchard, Michigan. He married _____.			
Children			
1300. Silvester	b.	ca. 1815 m.	_____
	d.		
1301. Silvanus	b.	ca. 1815 m.	ca. 1837 Harriet Moore
	d.		
1302. Calvin	b.	ca. 1818 m.	before 1852 Mary J. _____
	d.		
1303. Cynthia	b.	ca. 1819 m.	married Oliver Johnson
	d.		
1304. William	b.	m.	
	d.		
1305. Cascall	b.	m.	
	d.		

The Royce Family in America by Alvin Rhods, 2005. p. 114

The indirect and direct evidence is as follows:

1. Marriage record of Louisa Baldwin and Archibald Kidd.
2. Louisa was the administratrix of Archibald Kidd Estate
3. Sale of Land in Michigan – Louisa and William Royce
4. Crooks Road Cemetery, Troy, Oakland, Michigan – burials of William and wife Louisa Baldwin Royce Pearsall.
5. 1860 Census. Paschal living with mother, Louisa Pearsall.
6. Death Certificate of daughter Cynthia, names Louisa Baldwin as mother.
7. Endowment of the Dead. Mormon Church. Shows Louisa Baldwin as William's wife.
8. Obituary of sister Cynthia who mentions his siblings.

Louisa Baldwin was first married to Archibald Kidd in Vermont according to a marriage record in Montpelier. After his death, she married William Royce (no record) and after William's death, married Henry Pearsall (no record). After living with her son, Paschal, she moved to Alameda county, California where she died (no online death certificate).

Eliza Ann Langley's relationship to husband Paschal

1. 1856 Iowa State Census
2. 860, 1870 US Census
3. Paschal Royce Will
4. Paschal Royce Obituary

William Paschal Royce, our subject. His relationship to his mother Eliza Ann Langley:

1. Informant on her death certificate
2. 1880 Census and others
3. Obituary of mother
4. Numerous articles dealing with the murder mentions his mother.

William P Royce's Children

- a. Langley Louise Royce - never married.
 1. Iowa, U.S., Births
 2. Obituary
- b. William P. Royce, Jr. relationship to father and wife
 1. Birth record
 2. WWII Draft Registration

William, Jr. (1917-1993) married Eileen Kay Gilman (1916-1986)

They had two children:

1. William G. Royce
2. Richard Langley Royce.



Robert Royce, Cordwainer

by Kate Renner

When our ancestor Robert Royce arrived in America before 1648, did he already possess the skills of a cordwainer, or shoemaker? Or did he acquire those skills once on American soil? Upon his arrival, he was in his early forties, so he must have plied some trade while in England. His son Nehemiah was also a cordwainer, defined as someone who worked with new leather to fashion shoes, whereas cobblers repaired shoes and worked in lower grade leather and had much less training. In some Colonial jurisdictions, cobblers were forbidden by law to make new shoes. The word Cordwainer has its origins from the city Cordoba Spain which was home to the finest cordwain or Cordovan leather.

The first English guild to call themselves cordwainers was founded in Oxford in 1131. From the London Cordwainers guild website:

“Cordwainers are shoemakers, originally highly skilled craftsmen who used the finest goatskin leather from Cordoba in Spain. The Company’s roots date back to 1272, and the first Charter in 1439 licensed Cordwainers to control the shoe trade within the City of London. Today, the Cordwainers have a strong charitable ethos and our primary focus is to nurture young talent in the fashion and shoemaking industries.”

During the middle ages, craftsmen formed guilds to protect their trades and to train apprentices. Like many livery companies, the London Worshipful Company of Cordwainers had an official home, a series of fine halls that bordered St Paul’s Churchyard. One was destroyed in the Great Fire of London of 1666, and the last was damaged beyond repair in the Blitz in 1941. All that now remains is a plaque to mark the spot. Today there are 111 livery companies or trade associations in

London. But what about guilds in other parts of England? Did Robert Royce learn his trade in the Stamford Lincolnshire area?

My curiosity was prompted by a 1968 ad for Royce shoes, a store located in a mall nearby to where I grew up. It was a chain of family shoes later bought by the Endicott Johnson shoe company based in New York's Southern Tier. Royce Shoes may have originated in Baltimore Maryland but I was unable to confirm that. My research led me to a man named William Appelbee Royce (1884-1974) who was chairman in 1954 of the Norvic Shoe Company in Norwich England. It appears that this man's ancestry traces to the Royces of Rutland. Norwich in the county of Norfolk was a center for shoe manufacture and is 80 miles from Stamford. Only three other places in the UK, London, Leicester (30 miles to Stamford) and Northampton (35 miles from Stamford) produced more shoes than Norwich. Shoemaking in Norwich goes back as far as the 10th century, and by the 14th century it was one of around 130 trades that existed in the city. So while it does not appear that Lincolnshire was a center for shoe manufacture, it was close to two major centers, Leicester and Northampton. Curiously a bog body discovered in 1747 in Lincolnshire had a well preserved shoe of probable late Roman origin.

I did a deep dive into the origins of the shoe trade and discovered that nearby Northampton, 35 miles from Stamford, Lincolnshire where Robert's first children were baptized, was a major center for shoemaking. Whereas Leicester's connection with shoemaking dated to the early 19th century, the association between Northampton and shoemaking dates back to the 15th Century, in 1401 when the Shoemakers guild was established there, and the 1452 Assizes court regulated prices and weights for various trades including cordwainers: "The Assize of a Cordwainer is that he make no manner of shoes nor boots but of good neats leather and that it be thoroughly tanned." By the 1600s Northampton had a small cottage industry making shoes. I have found online apprenticeship records for Northamptonshire through their Northamptonshire Archives and Heritage Council. An example: In 1664 an apprenticeship indenture was recorded for Richard, son of Richard Grubbe to William Elkington of Barby, shoemaker. Northamptonshire has a shoemakers index which contains approximately 20,000 individual shoemakers and company names but no Robert Royce in it. An apprenticeship normally started at age fourteen and ran for seven years. Thus at age twenty-one Robert would have been free to marry. There is a Stamford St. Michael's record of a marriage of Robert Royce to Mary Jugkson on 8 Apr 1627. Lincolnshire has apprenticeship records for 1722-1835 but no Robert Royce. I have not found similar apprenticeship databases for Rutland or Lincolnshire.

In 1213 King John purchased a pair of boots in Northampton for 9d (4 pence). His son Henry III was a pious man - perhaps in response to his father's behavior - and chose from 1229 to give shoes to the poor at Christmas, Easter and Whitsun. Wherever he would be celebrating these feast days, eight towns including Northampton were ordered to supply up to 345 pairs. He continued to do this until his death in 1272. Northampton had a very large cattle market which provided the raw materials necessary to shoemaking and its central location resulted in shoemaking becoming the town's major industry. In 1642, a group of 13 shoemakers

obtained a contract for 600 pairs of boots and 4,000 pairs of shoes to equip the army going to Ireland. The existence of the order is noted because the shoemakers had difficulty getting paid for their work and were still complaining about non-payment in 1651.

The 1841 Census lists 1,821 shoemakers in Northampton. At this time there were clues reflecting the transformation taking place in the town's shoe industry. Some shoemakers were beginning to be described as manufacturers, as opposed to shoemakers. These manufacturers would normally employ a large number of shoemakers, supplying materials and collecting the finished product from shoemakers, and then selling on to buyers. This eventually led to factory made footwear with mechanization by 1857. The following year the Northampton Boot and Shoe-makers Mutual Protection Society was formed to oppose mechanization. A strike fund was created and links were forged with Stafford's shoemakers who were already engaged in a dispute with their manufacturers over the introduction of machinery. Tradespeople (and there were both male and female cordwainers) feared that mass manufacturing would infringe on their autonomy of the individual's work life, leading to fixed wages and hours and weakening product quality.

The National Cordwainer's Guild supports a scholarship at the University of Northampton for students interested in shoe design. The Northampton Museum and Art Gallery is a center for shoe knowledge and collections. They maintain a concealed shoe index of over 1,500 shoes. This refers to superstitions beginning prior to the 1600s and continuing to the end of the 19th century, of hiding shoes and other artifacts in buildings, often near a chimney. Other centers for English shoemaking were Somerset and Norwich, both too far away to have influenced Robert (unless he spent some time in Somerset before sailing to America.) But presumably each town of size had a shoemaker or two. With further research we may identify Robert's father and perhaps learn which occupation he pursued.

Turning to America, we have learned of Robert's occupation from a land sale dated 29 April 1670: Robert Royce was described as a shoemaker, according to Frank Farnsworth Starr and James J. Goodwin, "The Family of Robert Royce," Various Ancestral Lines of James Goodwin and Lucy (Morgan) Goodwin of Hartford, Connecticut, Vol. 1, Goodwin Lines (Hartford, Conn.: The Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor Press, 1915), 295-301 at 297, citing New London, Connecticut Land Records, vol. 3, folio 229. This information is easily accessed on Jan Wolfe's website (see below.) Robert was re-elected as a leather sealer by New London in February 1667. His son Nehemiah was also a shoemaker.

In Colonial America, shoemakers were skilled artisans who worked primarily in small shops within their homes, making shoes by hand to order for individuals, using wooden "lasts" to shape the leather. Shoemakers arrived in Jamestown in 1607 but the first cordwainer in New England was Thomas Beard of London, who landed at Plymouth in 1629, under contract for the Massachusetts Bay Colony. From "A Short History of American Shoemaking" by Fred Gannon, 1912: The first shoemakers to arrive appear to have been Thomas Beard, a shoemaker of St. Martin's, London,

and Isaac Rickman, who were sent over by the New England Company to the settlement of Salem, May 28, 1629. In a letter from the company's headquarters in London to Governor John Endicott at the Salem settlement, the following instructions concerning them were written:

"Thomas Beard, a shoemaker, and Isaac Rickman, being both recommended to us by Mr. Symon Whetcombe, to receive their diet and houseroom at the charge of the company, we have agreed they shall be with you, the Governor, or placed elsewhere, as you shall think good, and receive from you or by your appointment, their diet and lodging, for which they are to pay, each of them at the rate of 10 pounds a year. And we desire to receive a certificate under the hand of whomsoever they shall be so dieted and lodged with, how long a time they have remained with them, in case they shall otherwise dispose of themselves before the year be expired, or at least-wise the end of each year, to the end we may here receive payment according to said agreement. The said Thomas Beard has in the ship, Mayflower, divers hides, both for sole and upper leather, which he intends to make into boots and shoes in the new country. We pray you let Mr. Pierce, the master of said ship, view the said leather and estimate what tonnage the same may import, that so the said Beard may either pay unto you there, after the rate of four pounds a ton, for freight of the same, the like for his diet, if there be occasion to use any of his commodities or otherwise, upon your advice, we may receive if of Mr. Whetcombe, who has promised to see the same discharged.

Beard, the first American shoemaker, prospered in the colonies. He settled in Salem and plied his trade there for 14 years or more. He was made a freeman on May 10, 1643 and soon afterwards he moved to Portsmouth, NH., where he purchased an estate and made his home. Rickman probably returned to England after a short experience in this country. Of him the colonial records say nothing.

Again from Gannon's book:

"Other shoemakers followed Beard to the colonies. Phillip Kertland, who began the shoe manufacturing industry in the now foremost shoe manufacturing city of the country, Lynn, settled in Lynn in 1635. He was granted 10 acres of land by the settlement of Lynn in 1638.

"Henry Elwell, another colonial shoemaker, came to this country on the ship Hercules in 1634. He settled in Scituate, Massachusetts. He was admitted to the church in 1636. He enlisted in the colonial army for the Pequot War. His house was burned by the Indians.

"The little town of Reading granted its first shoemaker 'rights and wood and herbage,' meaning that he could gather free of charge from the town lands such wood as he wished for fuel and such herbs as he wished for medicine. The town of Ipswich admitted within its limits a shoemaker in 1654 and another in 1663...Yet, no matter how much desired a mechanic might be in a colonial town, he had to receive permission from the town to establish his home or shop within its limits. The colonists wished to keep out undesirable persons....

A few traveling shoemakers tramped from house to house, carrying a kit of tools and a supply of leather, and they made and mended shoes, and also related the latest news and gossip of the towns. A few shoemakers established stores, in which they sold shoes made by themselves or imported. James Everett, who came to Boston in 1634, was a leather dresser and shoemaker, also a landlord and a selectman. The inventory of his estate showed he carried a good sized stock of shoes...Though the shoe industry was strongly law bound in colonial times, yet it flourished.

It was common for early Yankees to combine the occupations of farming and shoemaking, and fishing and shoemaking. Farmers cultivated the soil in pleasant weather, and during the long winter, they made shoes in little workshops on their farms. Early shoemakers probably worked in the chimney corner of kitchens in the winter or out of doors, under the trees in the summer. As business increased, little shoe shops were built beside homes. They were often called 10-footers, because they measured about 10 feet square.”

New England settlements continued to purchase leather from Virginia until their own tanners were established. The first American guild of cordwainers was that of the Company of Shoemakers (sic) of Boston. Its charter of incorporation was granted by the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay, on October 18, 1648 and their chief purpose was to suppress inferior workmanship. They elected a master, two wardens, four or six associates, a clarke, a sealer, a searcher and a beadle to govern the trade, and the officers of the company were authorized to examine the shoemakers and had court approval to regulate them. There were itinerant shoemakers in the colonies and farmers often kept tools to make and repair shoes for their families, and both groups could escape supervision and standards. Boot making was the most sophisticated and prestigious branch of the trade. The making of boots and shoes for men and the making of shoes for women were separate pursuits. Dancing shoes had lighter soles and were usually made out of fabric. The shoemaker’s tool kit was often called St. Hugh’s bones, based on a legend of a martyr, and included items with names such as bones and sticks, helling sticks, and petty-boys. Shoemakers often diversified by sharpening knives, cutting hair and pulling teeth.

The mass-production of shoes for the Continental Army led to the eventual rise of the “Central Shop System” in the early eighteenth century, with separate stages of shoemaking happening at different shops or homes before the components were combined. Years later, technological advancements in the mid-nineteenth century and the need for more shoes with the advent of the Civil War pulled the shoemaking industry into the era of mechanization. Massachusetts was the largest producer of shoes through WW I, responsible for 40% of America’s shoes and gave rise to several shoe companies: Etonic founded in Brockton, 1876; Alden founded in 1884 in Middleborough; New Balance (Belmont, 1906); Converse (Malden, 1908); Vibram in 1916 in North Brookfield; Sperry in 1935 in Waltham; Rockport in 1971 in Marlborough; with European brand Reebok now headquartered in Boston. Most of these companies don’t actually make shoes in Massachusetts anymore, but when a region is a thriving center for an industry, it has a synergistic effect.

Sources:

<https://www.northamptonmuseums.com/info/3/collections/54/shoes-1#:~:text=Northampton%20and%20the%20county%20has,gradually%20things%20started%20to%20change.>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cordwainer> <https://cordwainers.org/timeline/>

<https://websites.umich.edu/~bobwolfe/gen/mn/m2246x2247.htm>

<https://dp.la/exhibitions/shoe-industry-massachusetts/early-shoemaking>

“American Shoemakers, 1648-1895” in the quarterly journal of economics:

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/1886057>

<https://www.ct-williams.com/blog/2018/4/29/beginnings-of-american-shoemaking>

https://www.google.com/books/edition/A_Short_History_of_American_Shoemaking/zFfzAAAA_MAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1

**Financial Statement for the Royce Family Association
for the Period 1/1/2024 -12/31/2024**

Dues Collected	= + \$419.54*
Website Expense	= - \$3451.57
Newsletter Copy and Mailing	= - \$504.90*
Total Expenses	= + \$3956.47*
Available Funds as of 12/31/2024	= +\$5940.85

***The odd number is because there is a fee deducted from every payment on our website, so that a \$15 annual membership payment becomes a deposit of \$14.26.**

***Sending newsletters digitally has substantially reduced the cost of printing and mailing.**

***Enhancing the RFA website to collect membership dues accounts for a large share of expenses.**

**The Royce Family Association
4 Fillingame Way
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