

Thomas Hodgson
1863-1917

and

Margaret A. Chester Hodgson
1872-1948

Thomas was born in England to John Hodgson in December of 1864. His father may have been born in Scotland (based on an entry on Thomas' death certificate). Cumbria UK, on the border of Scotland, is where a large concentration of Hodgson families come from. An article on the border wars mentions several of our ancestral surnames:

If your surname is [Kerr], your ancestors were almost certainly nefarious Border raiders. If [Hodgson or Taylor], your ancestors were among the victims or followers of the bandits.

We may not be able to trace our ancestors prior to this point until the DNA testing is sufficient to give us further clues. There were many people with similar names. For instance, There was a Thomas W. and Margaret Hodgson with the same birth years living in Haltwhistle, England. His occupation was also that of coal miner. However, during the 1911 England census, our ancestors were already in America.

Thomas may have immigrated in 1887, prior to Margaret (1910 US Census).

- *From 1836 to 1914, over 30 million Europeans migrated to the United States. The death rate on these transatlantic voyages was high, during which one in seven travelers died.*

Margaret was born in England in December of 1872. She came to America in 1891 (at about 19 years of age) and married Thomas on the 3rd day of September 1892 in Boulder County, CO (this may have been in Lafayette, where they lived, which is in Boulder County).

A year later, in September 1893, Margaret had son Lionel (“Lile”).

- *The [Panic of 1893](#) plunges Colorado into a massive depression.*
- *On November 7th, 1883 Colorado is one of the first US states to give women the vote.*

In 1884 Thomas and Margaret may have had a child that died. The 1900 census (under the family name of “Hodson”) lists Margaret as having had four children, with 3 living. Margaret must have lost another child prior to 1900. There is a listing for a Mary Hodgson in the Lafayette Cemetery without birth/death dates. It is possible she is the other lost child. It is most likely the child was lost between the births of Lionel and Margaret.

In March of 1896 Margaret had a daughter, Mildred L. (my great-grandmother).

- *The [Spanish American War](#) begins and ends in 1898.*

Another son followed in November of 1898. Wilfred Norman is listed on the 1900 Census as being a year old. Wilfred died in 1900 and is buried at the Lafayette Cemetery.

In 1900 the family was renting a house on “Base Line” Road in Lafayette. He may have been a fireman at the time.

- *Queen Victoria dies January 22, 1901. Note: Margaret (and probably Thomas) was a British citizen throughout her life. This would have most likely been a significant event for Margaret.*

Thomas Vincent was born August 19th, 1901.

- *September 14, 1901 - [William McKinley](#) assassinated, [Theodore Roosevelt](#) becomes [President](#)*

Marjorie E. (“Margie”) is born in 1903.

Myron was born January 2nd, 1906.

- *1906 - [San Francisco earthquake](#)*

Doris (the youngest) was born April 29th, 1907.

- 1907 - [*Coal mine explodes in Monongah, West Virginia*](#), killing at least 361. Worst industrial accident in American history
- 1908 - [*Ford Model T*](#) appears on market
- 1909 - [*William Howard Taft*](#) becomes President

The 1910 census shows Thomas and Margaret owning their home in Industrial City (this may be a mining camp for the Industrial Mine in Lafayette). Thomas was an Engineer for the mining industry. Lionel was already working in the mine at 16. The other children were 14, 10, 7, 4, and 3. Margaret stayed home with her children.

- April 1912 - The [*RMS Titanic*](#) strikes an iceberg and sinks.

On May 24th, 1913 daughter Mildred was married to James Henry Johnson in Lafayette.

- *Denver's greatest snowfall ever begins on December 1st, 1913.*
- *The [Ludlow Massacre](#): an attack by the Colorado National Guard and Colorado Fuel & Iron Company camp guards on a tent colony of 1,200 striking coal miners and their families at Ludlow, Colorado, on April 20, 1914. Some two dozen people, including women and children, were killed. The chief owner of the mine, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., was widely criticized for the incident. Note: This incident took place 200 miles to the south of Thomas' mine, but the tensions and conflicts were noted throughout Colorado.*

Thomas died on the 23rd of June in 1917.

Thomas Hodgson Funeral Today

Died at Hiawatha, Utah, Last Saturday, Burial Here.

The remains of Thomas Hodgson, who died of broncha pneumonia at Hiawatha, Utah last Saturday, arrived here yesterday morning.

The funeral will be held from the family home at two o'clock this afternoon, Rev. Struble officiating.

The deceased was fifty-two years of age, and was one of the pioneer miners of Lafayette.

He went to Hiawatha about six weeks ago to work in a mine there, where he was injured by falling rock on Tuesday, June 19th. He afterward contracted pneumonia which resulted in his death.

He leaves a family composed of the wife and six children, three sons, Lionel, Thomas and Myron, and three daughters, Mrs. Johnson, Marjorie and Doris. He also has one brother here John Hodgson.

The family have the sympathy of their many friends and acquaintances here.

"The Lafayette Leader" - June 29, 1917

- *Between September 1918 and June 1919, influenza and its complications, particularly pneumonia, killed nearly 1,500 Denverites. Statewide, statistics were equally shocking: 7,783 Coloradans died in 10 months, most of them in October, November, and December of 1918. Sickness paralleled death. Colorado, a state with fewer than a million people, recorded 44,803 incidents of flu in 1918 and 4,603 in 1919.*

Nationally, the flu killed more than half a million, accounting for more deaths than suffered by United States troops in battle during World Wars I and II combined. No one knows how many perished in other countries, but estimates start at 21 million.

- *1918 - [Treaty of Versailles](#) ends World War I*
- *1919 Theodore Roosevelt dies*
- *1919 - [18th Amendment](#), establishing [Prohibition](#)*

In 1920, Margaret and her children were living in their home on "Base Line Road". Lionel (26) was the only one listed as working. He was working as a fireman for the Railroad. Thomas (20), "Margary" (18), Myron (14), and Doris (12), were also in the home. Mildred L. lived in Louisville with her two young children. Louisville was only about 3 miles away. Likely Margaret would have seen her two grandchildren often.

- *June 3rd, 1921 - Flash floods on the Arkansas River and Fountain Creek kill 1500 people around Pueblo, Colorado.*
- *1921 - [Warren G. Harding](#) becomes President.*
- *1923 - President [Warren G. Harding](#) dies; [Calvin Coolidge](#) succeeds him*
- *1928 - [Amelia Earhart](#) becomes the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean.*

- 1929 - [Herbert Hoover](#) becomes President.
- 1929 - The [Dow Jones Industrial Average](#) plummets a record 68 points over a two-day period, setting off the [Wall Street Crash of 1929](#) and triggering the [Great Depression](#).

By 1930, Margaret was staying with daughter Doris in Los Angeles, California. She was living in Doris' rented home (with her two young children). Doris was also widowed. Mildred and Doris didn't work outside of the home. Doris' children were Arthur G. Rosser (born in Colorado about 1924 was age 6 1/12) and Myron Rosser (born in Colorado about 1927 was age 3 5/12).

- 1931 brings the worst of the depression. Almost 25% are unemployed.
- 1932 - Franklin Roosevelt is elected president.

In 1940, Margaret is back in Lafayette. She still lived in the same home at 610 E Baseline Rd, Boulder, CO. Her 16 year old grandson was living with her. She was 69 years old.

- Decemeber 1941 - Japanese attack Pearl Harbor. US declares war on Japan. Hitler declares war on US.
- August 27th, 1942 The [Granada War Relocation Center](#) (Camp Amache) opens for [Japanese-American internees](#) (Governor Carr opposed the internments in July.)
- September 2nd, 1945 - [World War II](#) ends as the [Empire of Japan](#) formally surrenders.

Margaret died in 1948 at the age of 76. She was buried in the Lafayette Cemetery.

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- *Bulleted items are "witness to history" items.*

