

BRIEF NARRATIVE HISTORY OF THE BABINGER FAMILLY

Blaise Babinger (b. 1848) and Reine Babinger (b. 1843) were married on May 29, 1871 in Soufflenheim, Alsace-Lorraine, France and emigrated to Gowanda, New York (yes, they both had the same name, Babinger, before being married!). Blaise had been an officer in the French army. Drawing from various somewhat conflicting accounts, it appears that Blaise and Reine Babinger had six children

Joseph Louis Babinger (b. May 14, 1874 in Gowanda, NY, d. May 4, 1948)
Rachel (Louise Regina?) Babinger (b. March 17, 1875 in Gowanda, NY, d. October 3, 1966 in Lodi, CA)
Mary (b. 1877, d. June 1960)
Katherine (b. 1880)
James Babinger (b. 1884)
Josephine K. Babinger (b. 1890 in Gowanda, NY, d. March 1970 in Lodi, CA)

Three of the six children -- Rachel, Mary, and Josephine -- eventually ended up in the Lodi, California area.

Rachel (Regina Louise?) Babinger (b. March 17, 1875) married Craig Edgar Stumpf (b. July 9, 1870) on March 21, 1903 in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, and they emigrated to Lodi in 1914, probably as a result of Craig Edgar's asthma. In 1923, they moved again to Glendale, CA, again probably due to Craig Edgar's asthma, although he died the next year on June 30, 1924. Jimmy supported Rachel from 1924 to 1937 while they continued to live in the Los Angeles area. After he and Tedi were married in 1937, they split up with Rachel, although they contributed weekly to her support. Rachel continued to live in LA for a short period of time, but finally moved to San Francisco in the same year (1937) where she lived with her sister Mary Babinger (Rachel didn't tell Jimmy she had moved until after she arrived in SF). For a short period Rachel worked and apparently made enough to hold up her share of expenses with Mary, then she went on relief. That was the only time in her life that she ever worked -- a source of considerable problems later on, because she was always dependent on other members of the family for support. The Welfare Department of the State of California collected a weekly stipend from Jimmy for many years as a part of his obligation to the state (while he was making 60 cents an hour with two children). Rachel died on October 3, 1966 in Lodi, less than a year before Jimmy's own death in 1967.

Rachel's younger sibling, Josephine Babinger, married F. Stanley Siegfried in 1913, and they emigrated to Lodi in 1917, probably after having paid a visit to Rachel. Stanley was quite a proficient violinist, and the family also operated a music store in Lodi for many years. Their daughter, Mary Siegfried (b. April 23, 1929, d. December 12, 2007) was the closest to Jimmy from the Lodi relatives, despite a difference in age of 22 years. She also lived in San Francisco with Rachel and her sister Mary while going to Dental Assistant school about 1950 and apparently got to know Rachel quite well. Later on, after marrying Roy Yarborough, a childhood sweetheart from Lodi Union High School, Mary Siegfried named her daughter Kim after Jimmy's daughter and her oldest son Craig after Jimmy's father.

Rachel's sister, Mary Babinger (b. 1877, d. June 1960), apparently never married, but nevertheless at some point also moved to the Lodi area where she and Rachel intermittently lived together (and fought) over a period of many years. To our knowledge, none of the other Babinger siblings ever moved to the Lodi area.