BRANCH & STORY

The Calloways of Fall River

1838 – 2015



The Calloways of Fall River

Four Generations, from Cornwall, Quebec, Cork and the Azores to the Massachusetts Coast

Prepared for the Calloway family · Christmas 2026

A SAMPLE BOOK FROM BRANCH & STORY · A FICTIONAL FAMILY CREATED FOR DEMONSTRATION

For everyone who ever asked, "Where did we come from?"

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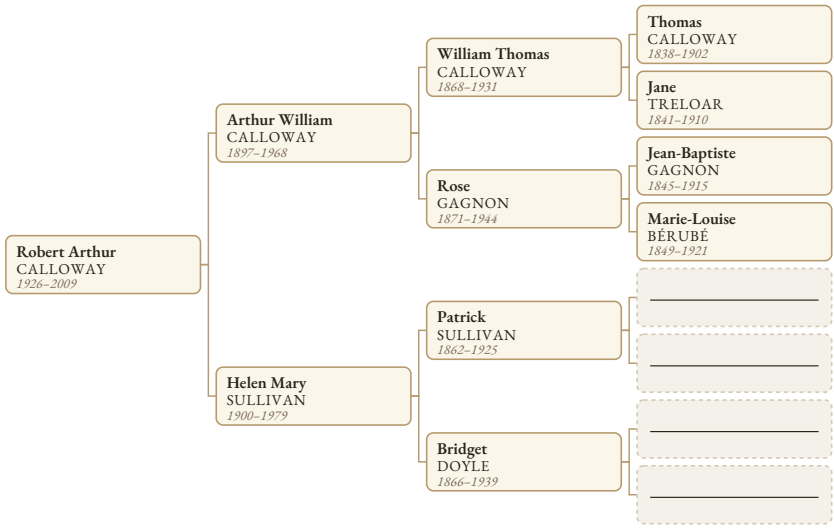
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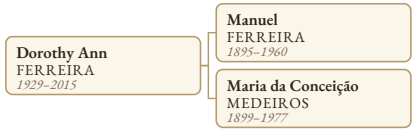
The Family at a Glance

Four generations, read from left to right: each person, then their father above and mother below.

THE ANCESTORS OF ROBERT ARTHUR CALLOWAY



THE ANCESTORS OF DOROTHY ANN FERREIRA



CHAPTER 1

The Crossings, 1838–1921

Calloway · Treloar · Gagnon · Bérubé

THE WORLD THEY KNEW

From Quebec to the mills. From the 1860s to the 1920s, roughly 900,000 French Canadians left Quebec's crowded farms for the textile towns of New England, building 'Petits Canadas' with French-language parishes, schools and newspapers.

Spindle City. By the 1870s Fall River, Massachusetts, was one of the largest cotton-cloth producers in the United States, its granite mills lining the Quequechan River and employing tens of thousands of immigrant workers.

Cornwall's mining collapse. Cornwall had been one of the world's great centers of copper and tin mining, but falling prices in the 1860s and 1870s closed mine after mine. Tens of thousands of Cornish miners and their families emigrated, carrying their skills to the Americas, South Africa and Australia.

Thomas Calloway & Jane Treloar

Born 1838, Redruth, Cornwall, England Died 1902, Fall River, Bristol, Massachusetts

Born 1841, Camborne, Cornwall, England Died 1910, Fall River, Bristol, Massachusetts

Thomas Calloway was born in 1838 in Redruth, at the heart of Cornwall's mining country. By 1861 he was working underground as a tin miner, as so

many Redruth men did, and that same year he married Jane Treloar of nearby Camborne.

The family record shows that in 1866 Thomas left Cornwall. We don't know exactly what decided it, but the timing matches the years when falling metal prices were closing Cornish mines one after another. By 1870 he was in Fall River, Massachusetts, no longer a miner but a mill hand, trading the dark of the shafts for the roar of the spinning rooms.

Thomas spent the rest of his life in Fall River. He died there in 1902, at about 64 years of age.

> A FAMILY MEMORY
> *Family story says Thomas brought only a Bible, a pasty tin and his miner's candle-holder from Cornwall, and that the Bible is the same one the family still keeps.*

Jane Treloar was born in 1841 in Camborne, Cornwall, a few miles from Redruth. She married Thomas at twenty and made the crossing to a new country with him a few years later. Jane outlived her husband by eight years and died in Fall River in 1910, at about 69.

Photo slot: Thomas Calloway & Jane Treloar

In your book, your own family photo appears here.

Thomas and Jane married in 1861 in Redruth, Cornwall, England. The family records 1 child: William Thomas Calloway (1868–1931).

Jean-Baptiste Gagnon & Marie-Louise Bérubé

Born 1845, Saint-Hyacinthe, Québec, Canada Died 1915, Woonsocket, Providence, Rhode Island

Born 1849, Saint-Hyacinthe, Québec, Canada Died 1921, Woonsocket, Providence, Rhode Island

Jean-Baptiste Gagnon was born in 1845 in Saint-Hyacinthe, Québec, and in 1870 he was still farming there. Like thousands of Quebec farmers, he eventually turned south: by 1885 he was a mule spinner in the mills of Woonsocket, Rhode Island, a city that was fast becoming one of the most French-speaking places in New England. He died in Woonsocket in 1915, at about 70.

Marie-Louise Bérubé was born in 1849 in Saint-Hyacinthe. She married Jean-Baptiste there in 1868, and the couple's daughter Rose was born three years later. Marie-Louise followed her husband to Woonsocket, where she died in 1921.

Photo slot: Jean-Baptiste Gagnon & Marie-Louise Bérubé

In your book, your own family photo appears here.

Jean-Baptiste and Marie-Louise married in 1868 in Saint-Hyacinthe, Québec, Canada. The family records 1 child: Rose Gagnon (1871–1944).

CHAPTER 2

Mill-Town Families, 1862–1944

Calloway · Gagnon · Sullivan · Doyle



A New England mill town of the 1890s. Illustration created for this sample; in your book, your own family photos appear here.

THE WORLD THEY KNEW

Woonsocket's French-Canadian mills. Woonsocket, Rhode Island, drew so many Quebec families to its textile mills that by the early 1900s a majority of its residents were of French-Canadian descent, and French was heard everywhere in its shops and churches.

From Quebec to the mills. From the 1860s to the 1920s, roughly 900,000 French Canadians left Quebec's crowded farms for the textile towns of New England, building 'Petits Canadas' with French-language parishes, schools and newspapers.

Spindle City. By the 1870s Fall River, Massachusetts, was one of the largest cotton-cloth producers in the United States, its granite mills lining the Quequechan River and employing tens of thousands of immigrant workers.

William Thomas Calloway & Rose Gagnon

Born 1868, Fall River, Bristol, Massachusetts Died 1931, Fall River, Bristol, Massachusetts

Born 1871, Saint-Hyacinthe, Québec, Canada Died 1944, Fall River, Bristol, Massachusetts

William Thomas Calloway was born in Fall River in 1868, two years after his father Thomas left Cornwall—making him the first Calloway in this line born on American soil. He grew up among the mills and made his living in them; by 1900 he was a mill mechanic, the kind of skilled hand who kept the looms and spinning frames running. William died in Fall River in 1931, at about 63.

Rose Gagnon was born in 1871 in Saint-Hyacinthe, Québec, and came south as a girl, around 1880, when her family settled in Woonsocket. In 1892 she married William Calloway in Fall River, joining a Cornish-American family to a French-Canadian one. Rose lived to see both World Wars and died in Fall River in 1944, at about 73.

> A FAMILY MEMORY
> *Rose wrote to her sister in Woonsocket every Sunday for fifty years, always in French, always signing off "ta soeur qui t'aime."*

Photo slot: William Thomas Calloway & Rose Gagnon

In your book, your own family photo appears here.

William and Rose married in 1892 in Fall River, Massachusetts. The family records 2 children: Lucy Calloway (1894–1973) and Arthur William Calloway (1897–1968).

Patrick Sullivan & Bridget Doyle

Born 1862, Skibbereen, County Cork, Ireland Died 1925, Providence, Providence, Rhode Island

Born 1866, Bandon, County Cork, Ireland Died 1939, Providence, Providence, Rhode Island

Patrick Sullivan was born in 1862 in Skibbereen, County Cork—a town that had suffered terribly in the Great Famine only fifteen years before. In 1881, at nineteen, he left from Queenstown, the busy Cork harbor where so many Irish emigrants said their last goodbyes. He settled in Providence, Rhode Island, and by 1900 was working as a jewelry polisher in one of the city's best-known trades. He died in Providence in 1925, at about 63.

Bridget Doyle was born in 1866 in Bandon, County Cork, not far from Patrick's hometown. She married Patrick in Providence in 1888 and spent the rest of her life there, dying in 1939, at about 73.



In your book, your own family photo appears here.

Patrick and Bridget married in 1888 in Providence, Rhode Island. The family records 1 child: Helen Mary Sullivan (1900–1979).

CHAPTER 3

War, Depression and Home, 1895–1979

Calloway · Sullivan · Ferreira · Medeiros

THE WORLD THEY KNEW

New England's textile decline. Beginning in the 1920s, many New England textile mills closed or moved south, and mill-town families adapted—turning to new industries, military service and, after the war, new suburbs.

Atlantic islands to New England. Islanders from the Azores had sailed on New England whaling ships since the early 1800s. Later, whole families followed to New Bedford and Fall River, where the cotton mills offered steady work.

Spindle City. By the 1870s Fall River, Massachusetts, was one of the largest cotton-cloth producers in the United States, its granite mills lining the Quequechan River and employing tens of thousands of immigrant workers.

Arthur William Calloway & Helen Mary Sullivan

Born May 3, 1897, Fall River, Bristol, Massachusetts Died November 11, 1968, Fall River, Bristol, Massachusetts

Born January 22, 1900, Providence, Providence, Rhode Island Died 1979, Fall River, Bristol, Massachusetts

Arthur William Calloway was born on May 3, 1897, in Fall River. At twenty-one he was in France with the U.S. Army in 1918, during the final

months of the First World War. He came home to the mills and by 1920 was working as a loom fixer, a trade passed along in mill families. Arthur died in Fall River on November 11, 1968—Veterans Day—at about 71.

Helen Mary Sullivan was born on January 22, 1900, in Providence, the daughter of Irish immigrants Patrick and Bridget. She married Arthur in Providence in 1922 and moved to Fall River, where she raised Eleanor and Robert through the hardest years of the Depression. Helen died in Fall River in 1979.

> A FAMILY MEMORY
>
> *Grandma Helen kept a tin of buttons from every coat the family ever wore out. During the Depression she turned flour sacks into school dresses for Eleanor.*

Photo slot: Arthur William Calloway & Helen Mary Sullivan

In your book, your own family photo appears here.

Arthur and Helen married in 1922 in Providence, Rhode Island. The family records 2 children: Eleanor Calloway (1924–1998) and Robert Arthur Calloway (1926–2009).

Manuel Ferreira & Maria da Conceição Medeiros

Born about 1895, Ponta Delgada, São Miguel, Azores, Portugal Died 1960, New Bedford, Bristol, Massachusetts

Born 1899, Ribeira Grande, São Miguel, Azores, Portugal Died 1977, New Bedford, Bristol, Massachusetts

Manuel Ferreira was born about 1895 in Ponta Delgada, on the island of São Miguel in the Azores. In 1913, still a young man, he arrived in New Bedford, Massachusetts, a city with deep Azorean ties stretching back to the whaling days. By 1920 he was a weaver in the city's mills, and in 1921 he became an American citizen. Manuel died in New Bedford in 1960, at about 65.

Maria da Conceição Medeiros was born in 1899 in Ribeira Grande, on the north coast of São Miguel. She arrived in New Bedford in 1916 and married Manuel there three years later. Maria lived in New Bedford until her death in 1977, at about 78.

> A FAMILY MEMORY
> *Vovó Maria planted kale and fava beans in every scrap of yard she ever had, even the strip beside the triple-decker on Rivet Street.*

Photo slot: Manuel Ferreira & Maria da Conceição Medeiros

In your book, your own family photo appears here.

Manuel and Maria married in 1919 in New Bedford, Massachusetts. The family records 1 child: Dorothy Ann Ferreira (1929–2015).

CHAPTER 4

Robert & Dorothy, 1926–2015

Calloway · Ferreira

THE WORLD THEY KNEW

New England's textile decline. Beginning in the 1920s, many New England textile mills closed or moved south, and mill-town families adapted—turning to new industries, military service and, after the war, new suburbs.

Spindle City. By the 1870s Fall River, Massachusetts, was one of the largest cotton-cloth producers in the United States, its granite mills lining the Quequechan River and employing tens of thousands of immigrant workers.

From whaling port to mill city. New Bedford was the whaling capital of the world in the mid-1800s; as whaling declined, cotton mills rose along the harbor, and by the early 1900s the city was a major textile center.

Robert Arthur Calloway & Dorothy Ann Ferreira

Born March 14, 1926, Fall River, Bristol, Massachusetts Died February 2, 2009, Dartmouth, Bristol, Massachusetts

Born July 9, 1929, New Bedford, Bristol, Massachusetts Died October 30, 2015, Dartmouth, Bristol, Massachusetts

Robert Arthur Calloway was born on March 14, 1926, in Fall River, the son of Arthur and Helen. He came of age during the Second World War, and by 1944 he was serving in the Navy in the Pacific. After the war he

settled across the bay in New Bedford, and by 1950 he was working as a machinist.

That June, Robert married Dorothy Ann Ferreira, bringing together four immigrant streams—Cornish, French-Canadian, Irish and Azorean—in one family. Robert died on February 2, 2009, in Dartmouth, Massachusetts, at about 82.

> A FAMILY MEMORY
> *Dad never talked much about the Navy, but every Fourth of July he'd hum "Anchors Aweigh" while he flipped burgers, and he kept his sea bag in the cellar until the day he died.*

Dorothy Ann Ferreira was born on July 9, 1929, in New Bedford, the daughter of Manuel and Maria. She married Robert in 1950 and, as their three children grew, went to work as a school secretary in Dartmouth, a job she held for years. Dorothy died in Dartmouth on October 30, 2015, at about 86.

> A FAMILY MEMORY
> *Mom made sweet bread every Easter from her mother's recipe and refused to write it down. "You watch, you learn," she said.*

Photo slot: Robert Arthur Calloway & Dorothy Ann Ferreira

In your book, your own family photo appears here.

Robert and Dorothy married on June 17, 1950 in New Bedford, Bristol, Massachusetts. The family records 3 children: Susan Calloway, James Robert Calloway (1955–2018) and Margaret Calloway.

AFTERWORD

The Story Continues

The family did not end with these pages. Those who came next are listed below. Relatives marked as living are named, but their birth dates and birthplaces are left out.

Susan Calloway *Living* (child)

Emily Hart *Living* (grandchild)

James Robert Calloway Born 1955, New Bedford, Massachusetts Died 2018, Tiverton, Newport, Rhode Island (child)

Margaret Calloway *Living* (child)

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Sources & a Note on Accuracy

This book was written from the family tree and notes supplied by the family. Names, dates and places are reproduced as they appear in that tree; they have not been independently re-researched, and family trees can contain errors. The narrative was drafted with the help of AI writing tools and reviewed by the family before printing. Passages titled 'The World They Knew' describe the general history of the times and places where these ancestors lived; they are not claims about what any individual personally experienced. People the family marked as living are named, but their birth dates and birthplaces are omitted. Gaps in the tree appear as blank lines so the family can write in what they later learn.

Sources recorded in the family tree

1. Calloway family Bible, family register pages (sample source)
2. Ferreira family recollections recorded by Dorothy Calloway, 1998 (sample source)
3. Letters of Rose Gagnon Calloway, 1890–1940, in family possession (sample source)
4. Robert Calloway's Navy discharge papers, family copy (sample source)

This sample book was produced by Branch & Story to demonstrate the format. It describes a fictional family. Every name, date, story and source in it was invented. Any resemblance to real people is coincidental. Historical context passages describe real, general history.