

The Family of Granville Wood and Lodoska Cummings

by Deborah A. Carl

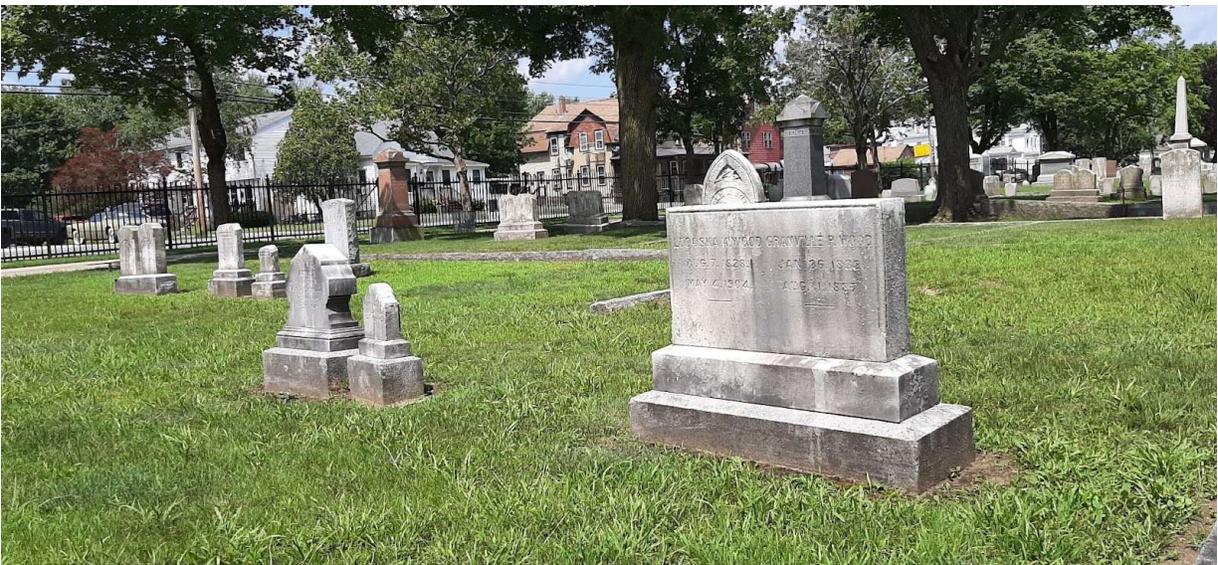


Woodlawn Cemetery in Nashua, New Hampshire, situated between East and West Hollis Streets, was created from land sold to the City of Nashua in 1848. Land continued to be added to the cemetery and it grew to be just under 40 acres. In 1895 it had around 12,000 graves, including the remains transferred from the Spring Street cemetery when it was closed in 1872. In 2022, there were just under 19,000 known graves. The city's burial database is not complete as many of the pre-1895 records are missing. Some headstones are not included in that database. Thanks to the volunteers with Find A Grave and BillionGraves, they are being documented. Pick any grave and there's a story to tell.



The son of Granville Wood and Lodoska Cummings was born in 1867 in Nashua, New Hampshire. He lived 30 minutes before dying of cyanosis which refers to bluish skin resulting from poor circulation or inadequate oxygenation of the blood.

The child was not given a name and the stone states he was the only son of G.P. and L.K. Wood. On the birth record, his parents were Granville P. and Lodosky Wood and their gravestone's about four feet away.

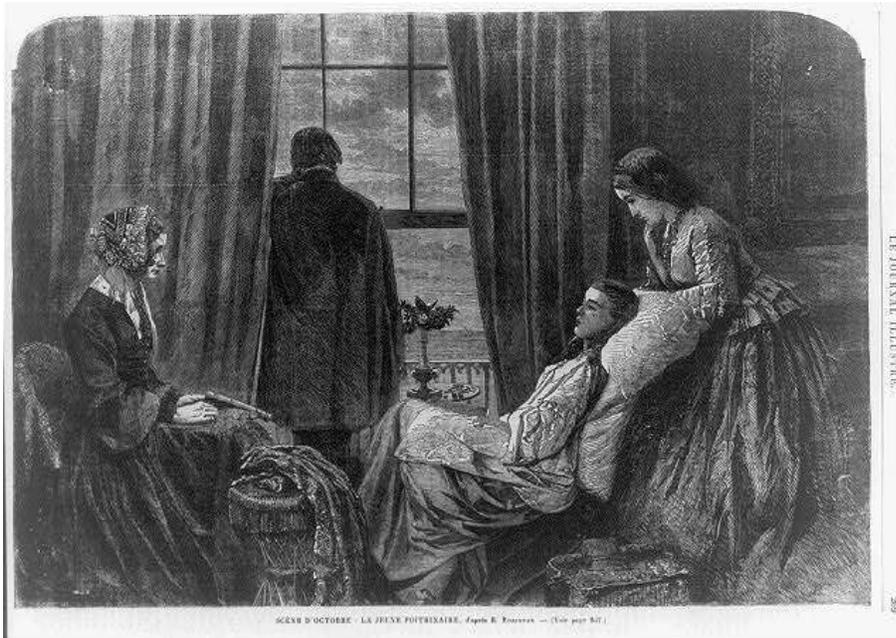


Lodoska was about 38 years old when her son was born. Women at this time stopped having children around age 40 so it was no surprise that this child was her last. He was also her second child, her first child having been born seven years earlier.

Granville and Lodoska married in Nashua in 1859. Granville was 26 years old and Lodoska was 30. It was the first marriage for both of them. In 1855 Granville had been living in Lowell working as a butcher, and in 1860, he was in Nashua working as a butcher. Perhaps Lodoska met him when she went shopping.

Their first child, Hattie was born in 1860 in Nashua, New Hampshire. As the years passed, they probably didn't expect to have any more children so

they were probably tentatively joyful when Lodoska conceived in 1866 at age 38 and the pregnancy progressed successfully. At that age, a great many things could go wrong. They hadn't chosen a name for the child, or if they had, they didn't give it to him. Perhaps they thought Lodoska would conceive again.



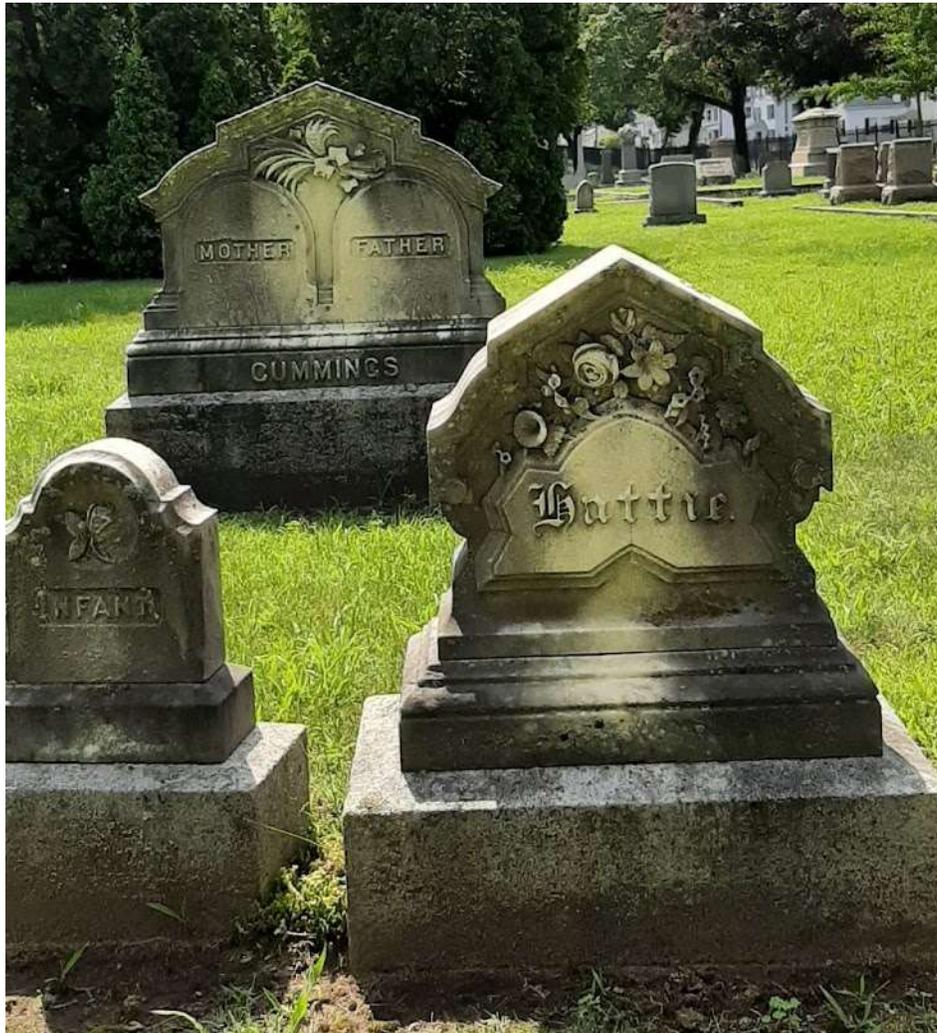
Consumption, the common name for tuberculosis, was responsible for about one-quarter of the deaths in New England until antibiotics became available in the mid-1940s. Hattie died of TB, just shy of her 18th birthday. Most

patients lingered for two to five years. The young woman, pale and thin with skin glowing from fever, was considered beautiful.

Granville and Lodoska probably were not thinking their only child looked beautiful, they probably looked at her as she wasted away, with broken hearts knowing they would never see her fall in love, never see her as a happy bride or a loving mother with children of her own. When they buried her, they also buried any hope of sharing their love with grandchildren.

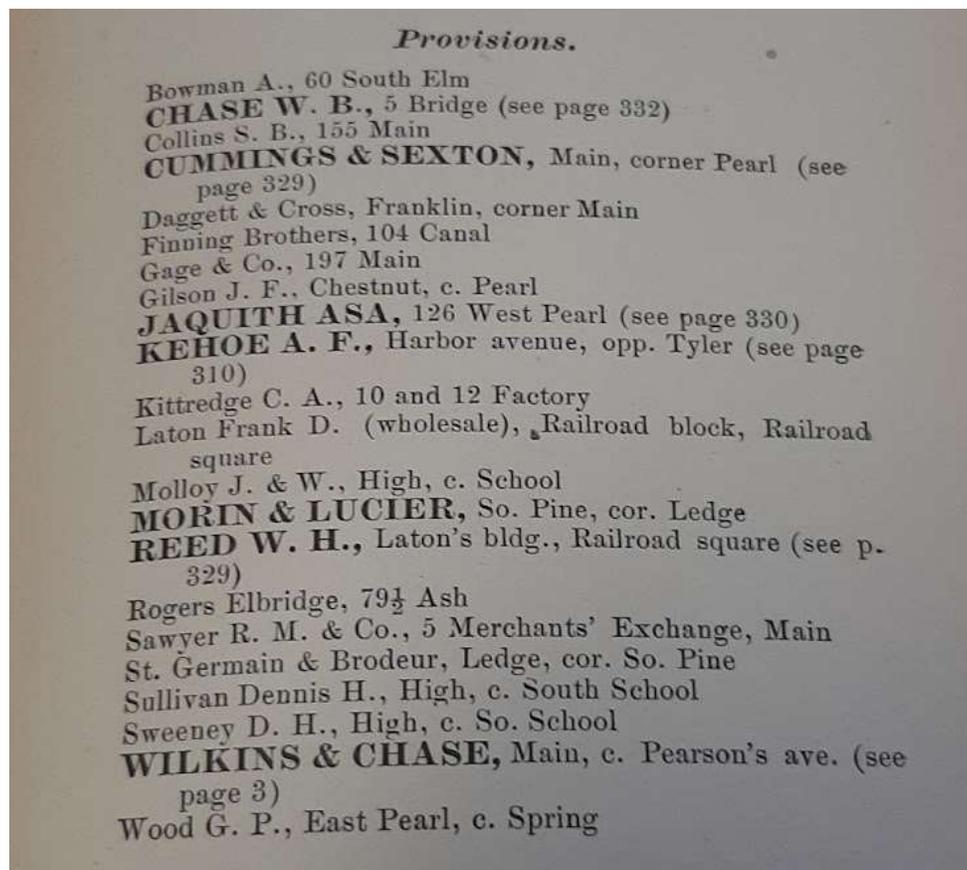


There were no nursing homes. Family was expected to take care of the elderly. Living with a child or grandchild would be easier than living with a niece or grand-nephew. A hidden question in Granville and Lodoska's hearts was probably what will happen when we get old?



Lodoska's parents were still living on their own at ages 74 and 78, so the family had probably had conversations about what to do when Mom and Dad would not be able to care for themselves or when they died. Dad, Moses Cummings, died of paralysis in Dedham, Massachusetts in 1880. There are many causes of paralysis, but the most likely cause in this case was a stroke. None of his children were living in Dedham and the decision was made to bury him in the Wood family plot in Nashua, New Hampshire near Hattie and her infant brother.

After her husband's death, Sally Cummings, most likely moved to Tisbury, Massachusetts to live with her son Augustus Cummings where she died at the age of 90. She was buried with her husband in the Wood family plot in Nashua, New Hampshire.



Granville Wood ran a provisions shop on the corner of East Pearl and Spring Streets. He and Lodoska lived at 32 Franklin Street which is now a parking lot.



Granville died in 1887 of paralysis in Nashua, New Hampshire.

The now widowed Lodoska was alone with the exception of her brother Augustus. As a widow, her choices for support were limited, she could live off the money her husband left her (if any), live with her brother or other relative, find another husband, or at age 58, engage in one of the acceptable women's jobs - teacher, dressmaker, laundress, housekeeper, factory worker, or domestic servant. Lodoska chose dressmaker and operated her shop out of her home at 20 Granite Street. About February 1904 she fractured her hip and arm. It could have been caused by osteoporosis, but it was February, and could have also been from a fall on the ice. She was taken to the hospital where she remained for three months before dying from the shock of her injuries at age 75. On May 7th, 1904 she was buried with her family.

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Illustrations:

Scène d'octobre: la jeune poitrinaire / d'après R. Robinson, 1864 wood print, *Library of Congress* (<https://www.loc.gov/item/2003662015/> : accessed 18 July 2023).

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Woodlawn Cemetery photos by John and Deborah Carl.

Notes:

According to FamilySearch, Hattie Wood and her unnamed brother are my step 6th cousins 4x removed through their mother Lodoska Knight

Cummings, and my step-great-great grandfather, William Tyler Brown. This might not be correct and needs to be verified. Contributors to FamilySearch range from 12-year-olds to professionals with varying skill levels.