

Zenas and Ida Noble Montague in Las Vegas, New Mexico
Circa 1910-1921
Some History and Thoughts
by Suzanne Liles
January 31, 2017
Yellville, Arkansas

My mother, who began collecting genealogy information about our family starting back in the 1930s, always felt that tracing the Montague family might yield clues about her own great great grandmothers Polly Lee Hill and Lydia Noble. This narrative is my attempt to finish what she started, not as an all encompassing history of even Zenas Montague, but to understand why our family detoured to Las Vegas, New Mexico, many years ago, and to write down what I have learned since that time. Mom knew that Zenas Montague had founded a college called Montezuma College in Las Vegas, New Mexico, and on one of our vacation trips west (1961) we stopped in Las Vegas to look for the college. We did not find a college; if I have the campus timeline right, the place we found may have been in its last years as a Catholic seminary for Mexican priests. I just remember old buildings and feeling a general sense of disappointment. There weren't even any Montagues in the phone book.

I once spent a week in Las Vegas, New Mexico, during my career as a National Park Service historian, at a workshop at New Mexico Highlands University, but at that time my own family history was not at the forefront of my interests and I failed to take advantage of the opportunity. So, with renewed enthusiasm, we happened to be in the vicinity this past September, 2016, visiting my husband's cousin in nearby Los Alamos. We took time for a day trip driving through the beautiful Mora Valley to Las Vegas. (Here in 1846 General Stephen Kearney first proclaimed these former Mexican lands to be a territory of the United States. A plaque on the plaza commemorates the location.)

Unfortunately our only available travel day was a Sunday so there weren't any local historical institutions open to get more help. But we did what we could with the internet resources I'd been able to download to my phone the night before. We accomplished two goals: finding the former Montezuma College and locating the grave of Ida Noble Montague. Since that visit, I have spent some time looking at the records available on familysearch.org and ancestry.com as well as online resources for the City of Las Vegas Museum and the San Miguel County genweb site, plus my own knowledge of eastern Iowa where I grew up, and previous material I collected on the Belknap, Noble, and Montague families. I am at a point of being ready to stop researching and just writing up what I have so others can continue to use this information as needed. Part I of this document explores the Montagues' time in Las Vegas. Part II is a summary of material I have found about their lives before New Mexico and which is pertinent to our own potential relative Ida Noble Montague.

Part I In Las Vegas, New Mexico

Zenas and Ida Montague moved to East Las Vegas, San Miguel County, New Mexico, sometime between 1905 and April 1910. In 1905 the family was living in Cedar Falls, Iowa, per the 1905 Iowa state census. By April 1910 they were recorded on the 1910 federal census for East Las Vegas, New Mexico,

along with their unmarried daughters Cora and Helen. Zenas was 68 in 1910, Ida 65, their daughters 36 and 34. Why did they choose Las Vegas? In all my reading I have yet to come up with any relative they followed. Perhaps the climate was thought to be helpful to one of them. In a 1921 article there is a reference to Zenas's appreciation of the climate's sunshine. Or maybe Cora took a teaching job (she had taught in the Iowa towns in which they lived and was teaching in Las Vegas in April 1910 when the census was taken. On that census she stated she had been employed full time in 1909 as well. She also was included on a list of names of teachers from around the state attending the state teachers convention in Las Vegas in December 1910, according to the *Las Vegas Optic* newspaper. At this time the city hadn't experienced the economic downswing that was coming and may have had advantages for Zenas who was involved with insurance and real estate while he lived there.

The Montagues settled in what at that time was a separate municipality called East Las Vegas, or New Town, predominantly Anglo, on the east side of the Gallinas River, whereas the older early 19th century and more Hispanic town of Las Vegas was on the west side. New Town continued to see construction of nice homes for several more years. According to the National Register nomination for North New Town, Las Vegas, New Mexico: "In 1906, with the construction of the Belen cut-off, the main east-west traffic of the Santa Fe Railway was diverted around Las Vegas. As a result of this shrinking of its economic base, commercial construction declined after 1908, although fine residences and public buildings continued to be built into the 1920's."

One of the *Las Vegas Optic* newspaper references I had found prior to our trip gave an address with Zenas's name, so we looked for 1011 6th Street in what now is just east Las Vegas. The section of streets where the Montagues lived is part of the North New Town Historic District and the house at 1011 6th Street is listed as a contributing structure to the district. The house with this address is a fixer upper right now, but would have been a nice residence when or if Zenas & Ida lived there. Unfortunately, the National Register nomination did not give a date for the house. It was referred to as an Italianate house with stucco overlay. The houses on 6th Street ranged in date from late 19th century to the 1930s.



The house at 1011 6th Street (digital photo by Suzie Liles September 2016)

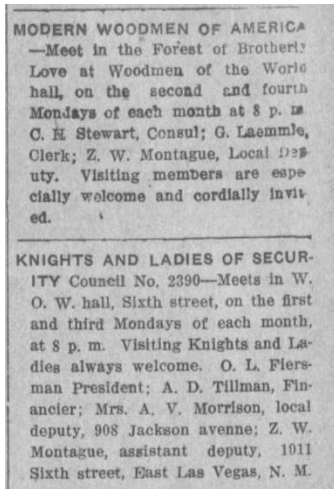
I'm not sure how the house above, which matches the National Register nomination for this address, jives with this photo I found in the online collections on the City of Las Vegas Museum website.



This photo, no date, is captioned “. . . in front of Montague house on 6th St.” (screen shot taken from online collection of City of Las Vegas Museum 1-26-2017). This was the only Montague reference in the online collections. Former or later home? Street renumbering? Caption wrong? More of the Montague wanderings?

The Montagues, at least Zenas and the girls, were socially busy and maintained a presence in the town during the twelve or so years they lived there. Cora was a teacher, Helen a bookkeeper. In the surviving issues of the *Las Vegas Optic* are some references to their daily life. [Two online repositories for the *Las Vegas Optic* are ancestry.com and the Library of Congress, each has some issues the others doesn't, but both are missing a year that would have been helpful, in particular 1917.]

The most frequent references to the Montagues in the newspaper were in the listings for fraternal and social organizations. Zenas was an officer for the local chapters of The Modern Woodmen of America, and, the Knights and Ladies of Security. Daughter Cora served for a while as financial officer for the latter. The Modern Woodmen of America first appeared in Las Vegas in January, 1911 (according to my survey of notices in the *Las Vegas Optic* for the years 1909-1914), and Zenas's name (as Z.W. Montague) first appeared in the newspaper notices as assistant deputy in the issue of April 10, 1911. He took a break from the organization for the first half of 1913 and then appeared again on their roster on June 30, one week before notices appeared in the paper for the Knights and Ladies of Security, with Z. W. Montague listed as assistant deputy (it was the notices for the Knights that had the address at 1011 6th Street). He continued on with both organizations at least through 1914.



From Las Vegas Optic, July 9, 1913. Screenshot from Chronicling America, Library of Congress, accessed 1-26-2017

Both of these organizations provided insurance benefits for their members, which may explain Zenas's interest, and since neither organization was in existence in Las Vegas before Zenas moved there one wonders if he had a hand in getting them started in Las Vegas. The Modern Woodmen of America was founded in 1883 in Lyons, Iowa, home at one time to David O. Montague and Zenas Montague and Zenas or his father may have encountered its originator, or have been a charter member

It is interesting that there seems to be no mention of Ida that I have been able to find in the surviving newspaper issues, although she lived in Las Vegas for at least seven years. Ida died sometime in 1917, but I have been unable to find any link to a death notice or obituary. Her name does not appear on the New Mexico Death Index of 1899-1940 (<http://www.usgwarchives.net/nm/nmdi.htm>). According to this website, in 1917 New Mexico was the only state without a Department of Health and death records did not begin until 1919 after the influenza outbreak. Even so, I spent time looking at all 1917 deaths in the index for "M" and "N," to no avail. I also emailed two volunteers listed on the San Miguel County genweb website: my message to one came back undeliverable and the other person so far has not answered. As 1917 would be just before the great influenza epidemic, it is probably too early for that outbreak to be the reason. I would suspect that Ida had other problems that led to her death. There is the possibility that the move to New Mexico was for Ida's health. New Mexico was a state which welcomed, encouraged tuberculosis patients, and did so after other southwestern states had stopped being so welcoming. There were sanatoriums across the state, including in Las Vegas.

I had cemetery information for Ida's grave from the New Mexico genweb site, so we went looking. According to the website she was buried in the Masonic Cemetery, which is on the west side. It is three cemeteries, the boundaries of which are not particularly obvious. The interesting old Jewish cemetery Montefiore is to the back. The internet site did not include a map, a too often occurrence I have found. I am grateful to my family for allowing me and helping me take an hour or more in the hot

New Mexico sun to find her grave. She was listed for Section O, that's an alphabet O, not zero, Row 3, which turned out to be near the entrance gate--of course we didn't look there first.

Ida's gravestone only held the basic information and there were no nearby burials to indicate any other family connections. "Ida Noble Montague, 1844-1917." At least, Ida was proud of her maiden name and past. (Her mother Abiah's tombstone in LaMotte, Iowa, is carved with her maiden name Abiah Herrick.) I was somewhat surprised that Ida's stone was plain and uninformative. It may be a replacement, although it didn't appear so. It did not have any notation that indicated it was a gravestone purchased through Modern Woodmen of America (MWA and other symbols.) Her parents Ande and Abiah Noble's late 19th century gravestone in LaMotte is quite decorative and filled with helpful family information. They were Methodists, I believe. David and Lucy Montague's gravestones in Iowa are equally plain and uninformative. They were Baptists but I have no idea if there is a religious connection to the style.



Masonic Cemetery, Las Vegas, New Mexico. (Digital photos by Suzie Liles, September 2016)



Ida Noble Montague's gravestone. (Digital photos by Suzie Liles, September 2016)

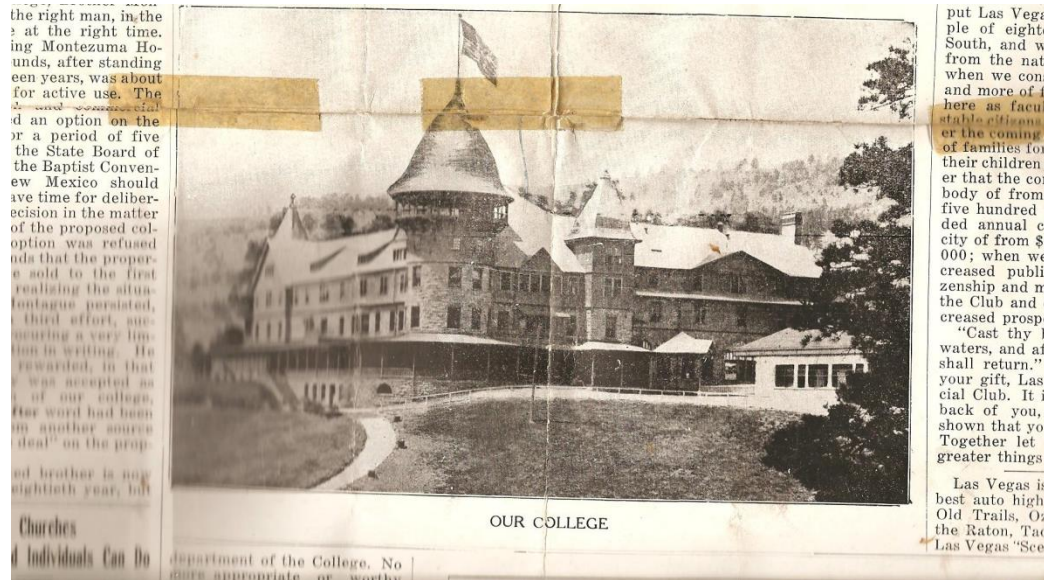
Zenas and his daughters remained in Las Vegas after Ida's death. Cora served on a Baptist church committee for donations for a missing boy (1920), Zenas was selected as a delegate to the county Republican convention (1920), Cora and Helen visited friends in Colorado (1921). [References accessed from the *Las Vegas Optic*.] In 1920, according to the Las Vegas federal census, the Montagues were living at 711 Seventh Street and had renters, William Hines, a young optician from Alabama and his wife Ola. I could not find out anything about the house at 711 Seventh Street; either it doesn't exist anymore, or, perhaps there has been a renumbering.

When Zenas and Ida moved to Las Vegas, New Mexico, one of the most striking pieces of architecture was a castle like former hotel building built by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway and opened in 1885 to promote the nearby hot springs. It sat above Las Vegas to the northwest in an area the promotional minded railroad company named Montezuma. By Zenas's time the building was abandoned and was for sale. An article that I found in my mother's papers extolled Zenas's efforts, as chairman of the college purchasing committee, to acquire the property for use for a Baptist college. The college became a reality and opened its doors as Montezuma College in 1921. Zenas was credited as the patriarch of the college.

What we found on our trip in September, 2016, was that the former Baptist Montezuma College was now the vibrant center of the U.S. campus of the Armand Hammer United World Colleges for international understanding, and a lively group of international students now filled its grounds. The old hotel/Baptist College building (the "castle") still dominated from the hilltop. I was told by the campus security guards that the building had been totally renovated by United World College. A helpful student from Germany tried to find appropriate staff to give me permission to enter the closed campus but no one was available on this Sunday. The student suggested that I just walk on up to the old building, which he said they used for classes and some housing, but the warm day, the many steps, and the presence of the security guards persuaded me to take photos instead (I had already tried the security guards—they were not moved by my pleas. As the old college building was one of my main reasons for visiting Las Vegas, I was a little disappointed.) The old hotel and grounds were entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 as "The Montezuma Hotel Complex."



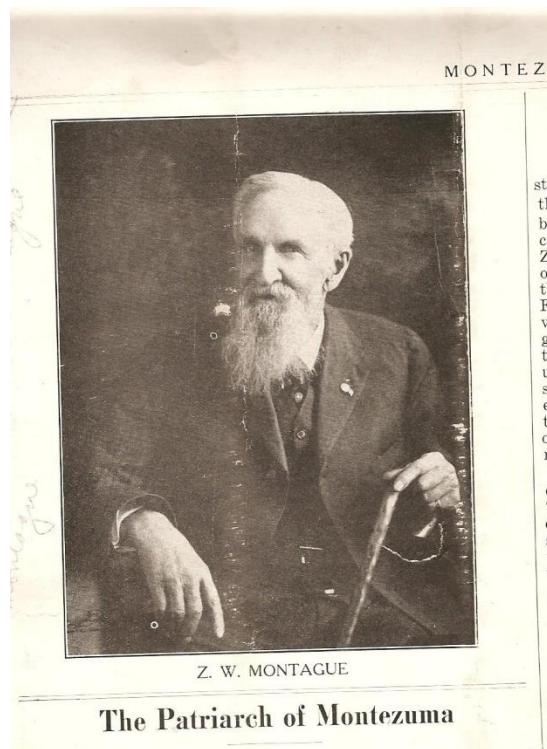
This is the campus today, showing the restored “castle” building high on the hill. (Digital photo by Suzie Liles, September, 2016).



This image is from Zenas’s time in Las Vegas, showing the building as it looked in its first year as a Baptist college, in 1921. The college lasted until 1932. (From 1921 Montezuma College Bulletin, scan by Suzie Liles, 2011).

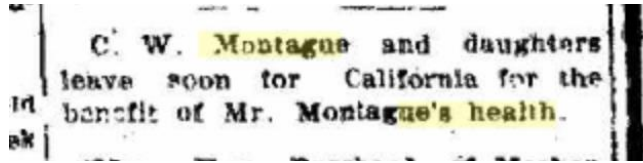


The Montezuma Hotel in its first heyday. (Screenshot from City of Las Vegas Museum online collection, accessed 1-26-2017)



This photo of Zenas Montague headed an article in the 1921 Montezuma College bulletin praising his efforts to secure the old Montezuma Hotel. At the end of this document I have attached the full article.

In the summer of 1921 Zenas and daughters Cora and Helen left Last Vegas for California, their imminent departure announced in *The Las Vegas Optic*.



Las Vegas Optic. June 17, 1921. (Screenshot taken from ancestry.com 9-11-2016)

Their departure may have been occasioned by Zenas's recent surgery and slow recovery as reported in the paper of January 13, 1921. He also had in-laws in California. His brother-in-law Ande Ellis Noble, as well as Ande's sister Melvina, had moved to California earlier in the century. (Ande E., that lively old guy, must have felt the California restorative powers and at the age of 82 married a 69 year old widow, his first marriage).

Zena changed locations in California, too, with addresses in Long Beach and Pasadena. He died in California (possibly Pasadena, his last address, or maybe Los Angeles, see next section) on May 8, 1923, age 82, two years after he left Las Vegas and a continent away from his birthplace in New York. [California Death Index, accessed at familysearch.org.] He and Ida left no descendants that we know of.

After our romp in family history we drove to the old Las Vegas plaza (the historic downtown) for refreshments at the Plaza Hotel. A recent migrant we met over our enchiladas and beer sung the praises of Las Vegas as the place to retire to. Maybe Zenas had those same thoughts back in the early 1900s. If you watch the *Longmire* TV series, Las Vegas, New Mexico, stands in for the program's supposed setting in Wyoming. The Plaza Hotel frequently appears in the background scenes. Sheriff Longmire's TV office door is just catty corner to the hotel, and for those visiting Las Vegas who don't know that, it must be somewhat startling to see a neatly lettered entrance door "Absaroka County, Durant, Wyoming, Sheriff's Department."



Plaza Hotel.



Longmire TV set sheriff's office.

(Digital photos by Suzie Liles, September 2016)

Part II Zenas and Ida Noble Montague, A Kind of Short History

Zenas Winthrop Montague was born in Mina, Chautauqua County, New York, in April, 1841, the oldest son of David Owen Montague and Lucy Lee Hill, both formerly of Vermont. In 1843 Zenas moved to LaMotte, Iowa, with his parents and possibly his grandmother Polly Lee Hill. He lived there with his parents until approximately 1863. His father David O. Montague settled on and later entered a land patent (1848) for 37 acres just south of and including what became LaMotte, Iowa, and is credited with the town's development. In 1863, Zenas and his Jackson County neighbor Ida Noble decided to marry, but they did it not in Iowa but in Detroit, Michigan. Why?

Ida Noble was the youngest daughter of Ande Noble and Abiah Herrick Noble. Ande Noble, together with our immediate ancestor Eli Belknap, had been among the earliest settlers of what became the Town of French Creek, Chautauqua County, in western New York. The Nobles, the Herricks, the Colburns, and the Belknaps had all migrated to Chautauqua County by 1820. They purchased lots from the Holland Land Company (a Dutch bank consortium which had acquired vast tracts of land in western New York) and settled down to be part of the local scene, sometimes serving as town officials, for which we are grateful as it gives us some references for those early years.

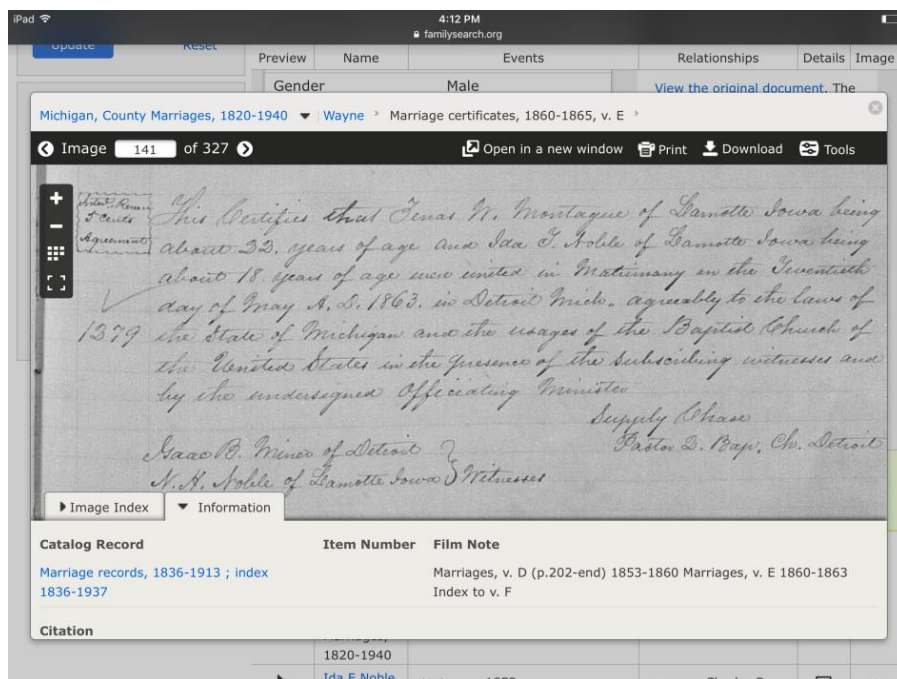
Eli Belknap's oldest son George Washington Belknap (whose wife Melinda Hill was a sister to Zenas's mother Lucy Hill), gave up on western New York and in 1844 migrated to LaMotte, Iowa, with his family, following in the steps of his brother-in-law David O. Montague. Eli Belknap and his wife Lydia Noble remained in western New York. But Ande Noble (whose exact relationship to our Lydia Noble we have yet to decipher) and his family went to Michigan, probably via Ohio. Ida Noble was born in June, 1844, and according to her most oft-mentioned birthplace on the census record, she was born in Ohio [see the chart on page 15]. The Ande Noble family was living in Michigan by the August, 1850, federal census recorded for Schoolcraft, Kalamazoo County, Michigan. On that census Ida was a young child of 6 (she was listed as Louisa and also on the later 1856 Iowa census, although it seems probable from the age progression on later censuses that Louisa is the Ida of later censuses, especially since her name was variously recorded as Louisa T., or Ida L.T). By 1856 (the first Iowa census to record the Nobles) Ande Noble and his family had been on the move again, this time presumably to join family in LaMotte, Iowa, and there they finally stayed put. Ande and Abiah Noble are buried in East Hill Cemetery in LaMotte.

So, to return to our story of Zenas and Ida. Ida Noble was 18 and Zenas Montague 22 when she and Zenas were married in Detroit on May 20, 1863. According to their marriage certificate they both were residents of LaMotte, Iowa. They were married by Supply Chase, pastor of the 2nd Baptist District. Their witnesses were Grace Minor of Detroit and N. H. Noble of "Lamotte, Iowa." N.H. is Nathaniel Herrick Noble, Ida's older brother. N. H., also known as Herrick, is buried in LaMotte with his parents Ande and Abiah Noble. I did a cursory search for Grace Minor thinking she might be a married relative or friend, but didn't take time to sort through the various suggestions that came up on familysearch.org. I did look up census records for Supply Chase but found no apparent family connection. Supply Chase

listed his occupation as Baptist minister but he also was a prosperous store owner and family man. A William Noble of Pennsylvania boarded with him in 1860, the only remote possibly I could find.

One can come up with a variety of scenarios that might have put the young couple in Detroit in 1863 but until more evidence surfaces, it is just guessing. There are some clues in the 1863 Iowa draft enrollment ledgers. On the Iowa draft registration of June and July, 1863, Zenas's place of residence was shown as Prairie Springs Township, Jackson County, and his marital status as single. Significantly, in the remarks section for his registration there is the notation "Detroit, Mich." So it was known that he was (probably temporarily) in Detroit--but not that he was newly married. And, to add to the Detroit connection, Ida's brothers Ande Ellis and Nathaniel Herrick also had remarks on their enlistment page that they were "in Detroit, Mich." Something drew the family there.

Of course, none of this explains why, Detroit. Detroit had just had a wartime race and draft riot in early March of 1863, not the best draw for going there. Did Ida and her brothers travel together to Detroit for a family event? Or did the brothers come to escort her home from a visit? There was a Baptist church in LaMotte so why go all the way to Detroit for a marriage between neighbors? Supply Chase does not seem to be a relative. They were both of age so they didn't need to run off. That this was the middle of the Civil War makes it even more intriguing. The draft enrollment listing of 1863 was the first nationwide draft for the war and may have created an impetus to marriage (it would not have changed Zenas's draft status but like many war marriages before and since, might have been the persuader). I hope someday someone finds the answers.



Zenas and Ida's marriage certificate, filed in Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan. (Accessed from familysearch.org)

No. 376

I certify all persons subject to do military duty between the ages of twenty and thirty-five years, and all conscripted persons subject to do military duty above the age of thirty-five years and under the age of forty-five. Class II comprises all other persons subject to do military duty.

SCHEDULE I.—CONSOLIDATED LIST of all persons of CLASS I, subject to do military duty in the *Second* **Congressional District, consisting of the Counties of** *Scott Jackson*
Van Wert Clinton Lucas and Muscatine **State of** *Iowa*, enumerated during the month of *June & July*, 1863, under direction of
P. C. Hall, Provost Marshal.

RESIDENCE	NAME	AGE MAY 1863	HAIR EYES COMPLEXION	PROFESSION, OCCUPATION, OR TRADE	MARRIED OR UNMARRIED	PLACE OF BIRTH (Naming the State, Territory, or Country.)	FORMER MILITARY SERVICE	REMARKS
<i>Prairie Springs Jackson Co</i>	<i>Montague, Zenas</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>New York</i>		<i>Detention book</i>
<i>LaMotte</i>	<i>Meyer, Nicholas</i>	<i>21</i>		<i>Fanner</i>		<i>Germany</i>		
	<i>Montague, Reynolds</i>	<i>32</i>			<i>Married</i>	<i>Canada</i>		<i>Alum.</i>
	<i>McKendall, G. B.</i>	<i>32</i>		<i>Wagonmaker</i>		<i>New York</i>		

Iowa draft registration for Zenas Montague, enrollment as taken June and July, 1863. Accessed from ancestry.org.

Zenas did not serve in the war. Zenas and Ida returned to Jackson County and during their fifty-five years of married life moved frequently around Iowa and finally took off for New Mexico. They had five children, all girls, of which there were three surviving daughters, none of whom apparently married. I have summarized Zenas and Ida's married years in the following tables rather than in narrative form. Anyone who wishes can take it from there as well as go to Steve Hissem's website (www.shissem.com) for a wealth of information on all the Montagues. I have a few items in the tables that I didn't see in his website narrative and the website has details I didn't include here. The table data is from the federal and state census information, some miscellaneous records, and gravestones in East Hill Cemetery, LaMotte, Iowa, and the Masonic Cemetery, Las Vegas, New Mexico.

Residences for Zenas and Ida Montague & family (Did Ida ever get tired of packing?)

Year	Residence or Location	Source	Notes
1860	Prairie Springs, Jackson County, Iowa	1860 Iowa federal census	Ida and Zenas each living with their parents
1863	Detroit, Michigan & LaMotte, Jackson County, Iowa	Marriage certificate	May 20, 1863
1870	LaMotte, Jackson County, Iowa	1870 Iowa federal census	
1870	[LaMotte] Jackson County, Iowa	1885,1905 Iowa state census	Birthplace of Lela April 1870
1872	Lyons, Clinton County, Iowa ¹	1885,1905 Iowa state census	Birthplace of Cora Aug 7 1872
1875	Lyons, Clinton County, Iowa ¹	1885,1905 Iowa state census	Birthplace of Helen June 25, 1875
1875	Lyons, Clinton County, Iowa ¹	1875 map Andreas Atlas ²	Z.W. Montague property shown
1880	LaMotte, Jackson County, Iowa	1880 Iowa federal census	
1883	LaMotte, Jackson County, Iowa	Iowa births familysearch.org	June 24, 1883
1885	LaMotte, Jackson County, Iowa	1885 Iowa state census	
1895	Center Junction, Jones County, Iowa	1895 Iowa state census	

1900	Vinton, Benton County, Iowa	1900 Iowa federal census	
1905	Cedar Falls, Blackhawk County, Iowa	1905 Iowa state census	Last Iowa reference
1910	East Las Vegas, San Miguel County, New Mexico	1910 New Mexico federal census	Earliest reference to family in New Mexico April 1910
1921	East Las Vegas, San Miguel County, New Mexico	<i>Las Vegas Optic</i> June 17, 1921	Notes Montagues leaving soon for California
1922	Long Beach, California	Long Beach City Directory	Zenas & daughters
1923	Pasadena, California	Pasadena City Directory	Zenas & daughters

- 1 Lyons, Iowa, was a separate town until it joined with the town of Clinton in 1895. Cora and Helen put Clinton County on the census form, but the 1875 Lyons plat map (see 2) suggests that Zenas lived in Lyons. Did Zenas follow his father David to Lyons or take over David's lot?
- 2 Plat map of Lyons, Iowa, Andreas Atlas, 1875, accessed from davidrumsey.com, shows lot for Z. W. Montague

Zenas & Ida Montague Family Events: Births, Deaths, Marriage

Date	Family Event	Source	Notes
1863 (May 20)	Marriage of Zenas and Ida	Marriage certificate	Detroit, Michigan
1870 (April)	Birth of Lela Abiah (Ida)	1870, 1900 Iowa federal census	Jackson County, Iowa
1872 (August 7)	Birth of Cora Sally	California death index	Lyons, Clinton County, Iowa ¹
1875 (June 25)	Birth of Helen (Hellen) Maria	California death index	Lyons, Clinton County, Iowa ¹
1883 (April 25)	Birth of Lucy A. or Tressa M.	Gravestone & Iowa birth record	LaMotte, Jackson County, Iowa; 4 th child; lived 4 months if Tressa ²
ca 1885-1895	Birth of Lucy A. or Tressa M.	Gravestone	Lived 4 days if Lucy ²
ca 1900-1905	Death of Lela in Iowa	Assumption from 1910 New Mexico federal census	Ida said she had 5 births, 2 children living ³
1917	Death of Ida	Ida's gravestone	Buried in Masonic Cemetery, Las Vegas, New Mexico
1923 (May 8)	Death of Zenas	California death index	In Pasadena or Los Angeles? ⁴
1964 (Aug 7)	Death of Cora	California death index	Los Angeles, California ⁵
1965 (May 16)	Death of Helen	California death index	Los Angeles, California ⁵

- 1 Place of birth from 1885, 1895, 1905 Iowa state censuses and see note in Residence table. Dates from California Death Index.
- 2 Single gravestone for Tressa M. And Lucy A. in East Hill Cemetery, LaMotte, Iowa (photo below by Suzie Liles, 2003). Birth record accessed from familysearch.org, "Iowa, County Births, 1880-1935." The notes for the 1883 listing have "4th child" but no first name listed. Gender female.

On the 1880 census Ida was listed as in “confinement.” Maternity or other health confinement? Tressa and Lucy could have been born together. However, I am going on the assumption that there was a 4th child in 1883 after Lela, Cora, and Helen, and a fifth child sometime between the census records of 1885 and 1900. It seems like there should be another record somewhere, but I haven’t located it. I did not search for a newspaper account.



- 3 Lela was listed with her sisters on the 1900 census, but I could not find her on the 1905 Iowa census. On the 1900 Iowa federal census Ida said she had had 5 births, and 3 children living, but in 1910 on the New Mexico federal census she said she had had 5 births with 2 children living. [Although helpful to us what in the world possessed the census creators to ask mothers to remember such potentially painful events?]
- 4 California Death Index, 1905-1939 at familysearch.org. Familysearch.org does not state a place of death & the death index only has codes; ancestry.com indicates this same record is for Los Angeles. I could not find his grave on findagrave.com.
- 5 California Death Index, 1940-1997 at familysearch.org. I did not find information for their graves at findagrave.com.

Some of Zenas’s Occupations (Zenas is much more interesting than most ancestors!)

Year	Occupation	Source	Notes
1860	(Living with parents)	1860 Iowa federal census	
1863	Teacher	1863 Iowa draft registration	
1870	Life insurance agent	1870 Iowa federal census	
1880	Stock dealer	1880 Iowa federal census	
1885	Mayor of LaMotte, dealer in stock, insurance	1885 Iowa state census	
1895	Justice of Peace, notary public	1895 Iowa state census	
1900	Farmer	1900 Iowa federal census	
1905	Insurance	1905 Iowa state census	
1910	Real estate agent	1910 New Mexico federal census	
1920	None	1920 New Mexico federal census	

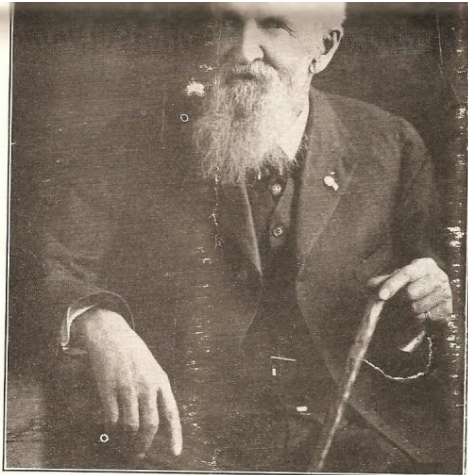
I had hoped that a possible obituary or death record might give us some more clues to the ethnicity and migration of the Nobles. And like her older presumed kinsman Lydia Noble, Ida's census responses were all over the map, literally. She provided tantalizing connections to Nobles being from Canada but as frequently listed a stateside locale. She listed Canada twice for her father Ande's birthplace, more than he did. However, I believe there has to be a reason for the perceived Canadian connection, at the least some family history that was handed down to the children that described a Canadian childhood, even if Ande's answers to the question don't give that impression.

Ida's Changing Opinion on Birthplaces (or whoever gave the information to the census taker)

Source	Ida's Birthplace	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Notes
1850 Michigan federal census	Ohio	Connecticut	Vermont	See ¹
1856 Iowa state census	New York	Connecticut	Vermont	See ¹
1860 Iowa federal census	Ohio	Connecticut	Vermont	See ¹
1870 Iowa federal census	New York	-----	-----	Did not ask for parents; Ande died 1869
1880 Iowa federal census	New York	Canada ²	Vermont	
1885 Iowa state census	Ohio	-----	-----	Did not ask for parents
1895 Iowa federal census	Ohio	Foreign born ²	Native born	Native or foreign
1900 Iowa federal census	Ohio	Vermont	Vermont	
1905 Iowa state census	Ohio	Vermont	Vermont	
1910 New Mexico federal census	Ohio	"Fr. Canada" ²	United States	
1920 New Mexico federal census	Ohio	//	//	What Cora & Helen said

- 1 1850-1860 answers are from Ande Noble's census listing; 1870-1910 are from Ida Montague's census listing
- 2 The three censuses in which Ida (or someone) implied a foreign or Canadian birth for Ande. Runner up is Vermont, but never Ande's own choice of Connecticut.

name
 →
 Montezuma
 →
 Z. W. Montague
 →
 as he approaches the sunset
 valley he still revels in the
 glorious sunshine of the Las Ve-
 gas climate. In his "clinging"
 the Montezuma property, he
 has done a lasting service to the
 Baptists of the state, and the
 denomination at large, and we
 love to call him the "Grand O'd
 Man of Montezuma."
 →
 Club wished an option on the
 property for a period of five
 days, until the State Board of
 Missions of the Baptist Con-
 vention of New Mexico should
 meet and have time for delibera-
 tion and decision in the matter
 of location of the proposed col-
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 was doubly rewarded, in that
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three days after word had been
 received from another source
 to "close the deal" on the prop-
 erty.
 This sainted brother is now
 nearing his eightieth year, but



Z. W. MONTAGUE

The Patriarch of Montezuma

Brother Montague was chairman of the Las Vegas Church Committee presenting Montezuma to the State Board.

When the Baptists of the state began to discuss the proposition of locating a college, he was the first to say: "The MONTEZUMA is the ideal place for it."

When the time came for deciding upon the location of our Baptist College, Brother Montague was the right man, in the right place at the right time. The imposing Montezuma Hotel and grounds, after standing idle for fifteen years, was about to be sold for active use. The Club wished an option on the property for a period of five days, until the State Board of Missions of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico should meet and have time for deliberation and decision in the matter of location of the proposed college. The option was refused on the grounds that the property would be sold to the first comer. But realizing the situation, Mr. Montague persisted, and after a third effort, succeeded in procuring a very limited time option in writing. He was doubly rewarded, in that the property was accepted as the location of our college, **three days after** word had been received from another source to "close the deal" on the property.

This sainted brother is now nearing his eightieth year, but

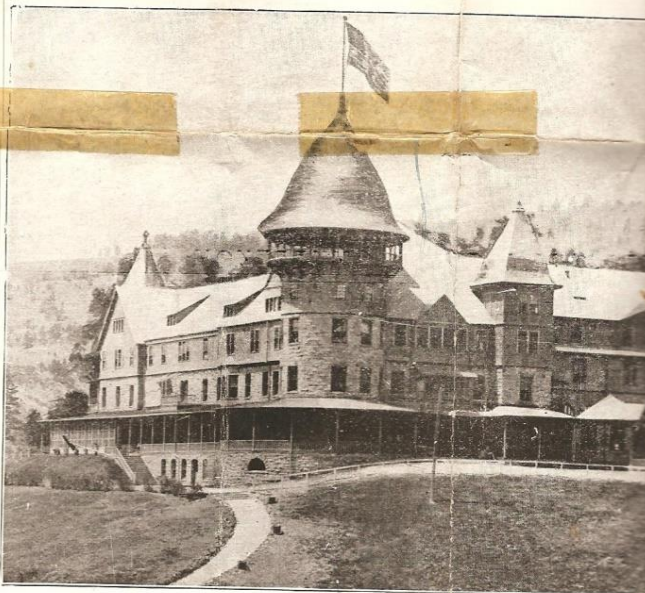
What Pastors, Churches

and Individuals Can Do

back over the past summer we can only predict that MONTEZUMA COLLEGE will be one of the most popular schools in the South within a few years. From 100 to 150 tourist parties visited the building and grounds last summer—sometimes as high as seven party units a day—and in each instance enthusiasm would rise to elation and deepen into conviction as the parties passed from one part to another of the magnificent building.

Two expressions were very often on the lips of visitors: "It's just an ideal place for a college," and from those whose school days were over, "My, I wish I were a student again, that I might attend college in such buildings and scenes as these." The big and beautiful dining hall never fails to elicit expressions of admiration and delight; the spacious halls, winding stairs and artistically tinted rooms led one to exclaim, "What a fine example of deserted splendor;" and the views obtained from the two lofty towers would hold people in silent wonder. Some have wondered how the architect designed two such logical points of scenic observation "without an aeroplane from which to determine their position."

You will be appealed to by the views in this little bulletin; but if you decide to enroll your



OUR COLLEGE

From the issue of February 1, 1921, *Montezuma College Bulletin*, p.1.

Scan made in 2011 by Suzie Liles from the original copy belonging to the family genealogical collection of Myrtle Faldorf Dockal in Dubuque, Iowa. (The *Bulletin* was in newspaper style and a little unwieldy for a small home office scanner.)