

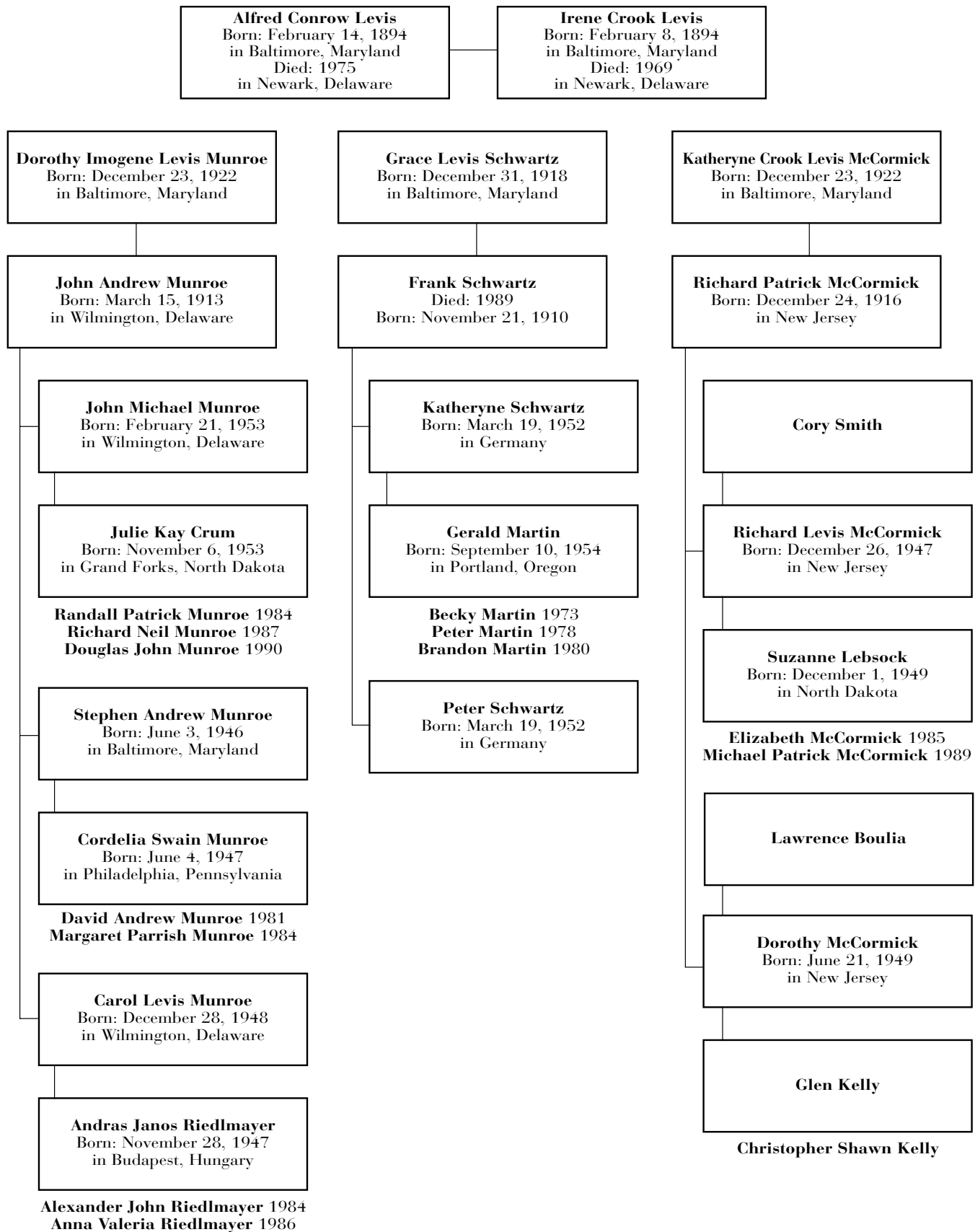
# 75 Years of Swinging



Dorothy Imogene Levis & Katheryne Crook Levis

Grand 75th Birthday Celebration  
Williamsburg  
Saturday November 29, 1997

# Decendants of Alfred Conrow Levis and Irene Crook



# 1922



Katheryne



Dorothy



Dorothy around 2 years old



Trip to Ocean City



On the Playground



20

Sept. 1939

# Davis

## 15-YEAR-OLD MISS VIEWED BIG THREAT IN M. A. NET EVENT

Helen Harrison, Seeded  
No. 2, Feared In Title  
Tennis Play

ONE OF THE youngest players in the tournament, 15-year-old Helen Harrison, of the host club, is the most feared by the field of 25 girls starting play today in the first Middle Atlantic singles and doubles championships at l'Hirondelle Club.

Miss Harrison, rated the most promising youngster developed in this section in recent years, has drawn No. 2 seeding, behind Dorothy Levis, who won the Baltimore center girls' title. The Harrison lassie captured the center title for girls 15 years old and under.

### Doubles Tomorrow

In addition to Misses Levis and Harrison, Betty Jacob, of Washington, looms as a prominent contender. Miss Jacob probably won't get into action in the tournament until tomorrow. She was scheduled to meet Shirley Combs in Washington today for the District championship.

Thomas W. Harrison, Jr., chairman of the tournament committee, announced that play would begin daily in singles at 10.30 A. M. and it is likely that two rounds will be played each day.

Doubles will start tomorrow. The winner and runner-up in both singles and doubles will qualify for the national girls' championships starting August 28 in Philadelphia.

In 1939 Dorothy, while still 16, won the All Baltimore Center Girls title. She was then invited to compete in the Middle Atlantic Singles and Doubles Championship where she was the top seed number one. After a day's postponement, Dorothy was beaten by Helen Harrison. Miss Harrison was, at 15, an experienced player who had the luxury of professional lessons. Dorothy was invited to the National Girls Championship at the Marion Cricket Club near Philadelphia. Family plans kept her from attending, although she says that she wouldn't have been competitive as the event was going to be held on grass courts. Dorothy had never played on a grass surface.



This picture shows Katch and Dot around age 12. Notice all the different sports. Lacross, Tennis, Baseball and Football. They took pride in being tomboys, and even at her 50th wedding anniversary, Dorothy could throw the football with good form and distance.

**DOROTHY AND KATHERYNE** were born early in the morning of December 23, 1922. While older by ten minutes, Katheryne reports, “I didn’t have to wait long for her.”

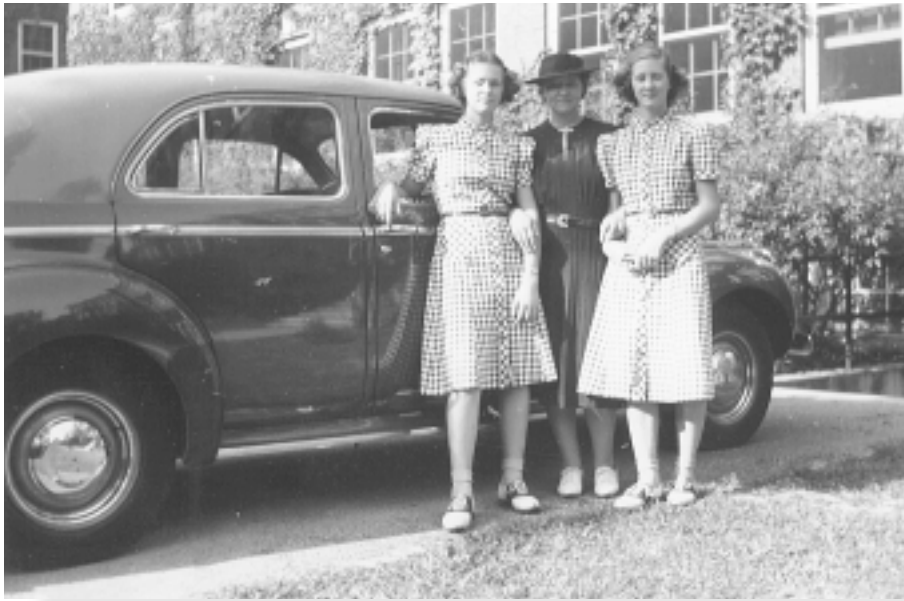
**THEIR PARENTS** were from the Baltimore area. Irene Crook and Alfred Levis were born within six days of each other in February of 1894 and attended the same Baltimore Friends School together from kindergarten. It is not known when they first knew each other. Irene went to Normal school for two years of teacher training. She would have preferred to go to Goucher College but her brothers evidently would not approve of that. She went on to teach upper middle school for several years. Both their families summered in the same area on Maryland’s eastern shore where they eventually would have gotten to know each other better.

**ALFRED LEVIS** attended the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado where he was known for his great energy which in his year book he attributed to “potatoes.” His nickname was “Sol.” He made the trip between Maryland and Colorado on his Indian motorcycle. When he graduated with a degree in Mining Engineering in 1917, the United States was just entering World War II. Alfred began work at the Baltimore shipyard and that same year he and Irene married.

**THEIR FIRST CHILD**, born in December of 1918 was Grace. She graduated from Hood College with a degree in Home Economics and went on to Johns Hopkins for an additional one year degree in Dietetics. Grace served during World War II in Australia and New Guinea with the Hopkins Medical Unit. It was during her wartime service that she met Frank Schwartz.

Frank Schwartz, who had graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis around 1932. He held a number of commands in the Pacific theater and eventually retired with a rank of Rear Admiral. He then took a job with Boeing and worked on classified military programs for the rest of his career. He never was able to share the details of his work with his family. Grace’s twin sisters were born when she was four.

**THE TWINS** grew up together. They vacationed with their family on the Severn river where they had a number of adventures. They learned precision early on when dividing things among themselves; Their saying was “You cut, I’ll choose.” They played all manner of sports from football to sand lot baseball. They collected bottles in the summer and made snow cones in the winter for spending money. Dorothy was proud of perfect attendance in Sunday school and their grades were always the highest. With each other for competition they needed no other. They arrived at the Women’s College of the University of North Carolina dressed in identical outfits. By the time they graduated the photos show that they were dressing somewhat differently. They graduated with the same 3.9+ grade point average with an AB degree in Chemistry. They worked summers for Crown Cork and Seal. They were then offered the first graduate appointments at the University of Delaware by Alan Colburne in the new field of high polymer chemistry. They were, in fact his very first graduate students in this field. The University of Delaware was just beginning to develop nationally recognized program in Chemical Engineering. It was here that they fell under the gaze of two eligible young instructors of history. As office mates, they had ample opportunity to plan their strategy.



Arriving at The Women's College of the University of North Carolina in September, 1940.



Graduation in Greensboro in June of 1944.



Dorothy Levis, Billie Upchurch, a counselor (unknown), Katheryne Levis. By about 1942 or 1943 Katch and Dot no longer dressed alike.

A. P. Colburn  
UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE  
NEWARK, DELAWARE  
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Miss Katheryne C. Levis,  
707 St. Johns Road,  
Baltimore, 10,  
Maryland

Note that the letterhead on their offer of a joint fellowship reads "Plastics Laboratory." The letter was dated April 3 and the envelope was postmarked at 7:30 PM the same evening. The offer mentioned that their work was to be "pioneering in nature."

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE  
NEWARK, DELAWARE

DIVISION OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING  
PLASTICS LABORATORY

April 3, 1944

Miss Dorothy I. Levis,  
Miss Katheryne C. Levis,  
707 St. Johns Road,  
Baltimore, 10, Maryland

Dear Miss Levis:

We were all greatly pleased with your visit here last Friday, and Dr. Drake, Chairman of the Chemical Department, Women's College, and I wish to offer each of you a fellowship in Plastics at this University. This fellowship would apply whenever you are available and will amount to \$900.00 per year, during which time you will presumably complete the work for the Master's degree.

We hope you will accept this offer as everyone who met you on Friday liked you both very much and we believe you would enjoy working with the very congenial group now engaged in research in Plastics and other fields. The work in Plastics is pioneering nature and you will have an opportunity not only to carry on your individual problems but also to assist in the building up of our general research program in this growing field.

We shall be very glad to have you let us know if there is any additional information you might desire. There is no hurry in making your decision but we should like to hear in a week or so if you find the position inviting. Perhaps you will be able to decide readily after returning to school.

Sincerely yours,

*A. P. Colburn*  
A. P. Colburn,  
Professor of Chemical Engineering.

APC:NL

CC - Dr. Quaesita C. Drake  
Dean Marjorie Golder  
Dean R. L. Spencer





Left to right: Katheryne Levis, Dr. Elizabeth Dyer, Dorothy Levis. Here they are posing with a hydraulic press in Brown Laboratory in the fall of 1944



Probably this is the photo that appeared in the Alumnae News Article that John Munroe was asked to write about the Levis twins. This was their first formal meeting.