

Utah State University

DigitalCommons@USU

USU Student Folklore Fieldwork

Student Folklore Fieldwork

11-30-2018

Spoons Brought to America

Brittany Fitzgerald

author13.writeon@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/student_folklore_all

Recommended Citation

Fitzgerald, Brittany, "Spoons Brought to America" (2018). *USU Student Folklore Fieldwork*. Paper 379.
https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/student_folklore_all/379

This G8: Other Items of Material Folk Culture is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Folklore Fieldwork at DigitalCommons@USU. It has been accepted for inclusion in USU Student Folklore Fieldwork by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@USU. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usu.edu.



Myself
Logan, Utah
November 30, 2018

Title: Spoons Brought to America
Genre: Material Culture

Informant:

My name is Brittany Fitzgerald. I am a 19-year-old undergraduate in my third semester at Utah State University and intend to double major in English and Anthropology. I was born and raised in Davis County, Utah, and spent a year living in Livermore, California when I was 8. I was raised Mormon, in a large extended family, nearly all of whom are also active members. My favorite hobbies are handicrafts, writing, and drawing.

Context:

This is a framed display in my maternal grandfather's office. Walter and Mary Jane Denton Woffinden were his great-grandparents, and Mary Elizabeth was his grandmother. He never knew any of them, as his grandparents died when his mother was an infant and she was raised by Sarah Ellen (the baby in the picture) and her husband Horace (not the Horace in the picture).

Text:



[Framed spoon display, with a photo of the Woffinden family, a sketch of the *Alaska*, a small placard, and two spoons. The larger spoon is flattened on one side. Text of the placard:

"SPOONS BROUGHT TO AMERICA

By:

Walter Woffinden Sr.

Mary Jane Denton Woffinden

Mary Elizabeth (Lizzie)

Sarah Ellen (Nellie)(baby)

Horace

Thomas (not shown)

From Liverpool, England

On

April 22, 1893

Aboard the SS Alaska

Arrived, New York Harbor

May 1, 1893"]

Texture:

When you ask about this display, the main thing my grandpa will point out is the flattening of the spoon, because it was used over and over, and scraping against the bottom of the pot eventually flattened it. This is one of the only things that our family has of the Woffindens, because Lizzie and her husband died and a lot of their family heirlooms and belongings were sold to get the assorted relatives caring for their orphaned daughters through the Depression, and any photos and mementos that Nellie and her husband had they passed to their biological daughter, Ilene. Whenever this is discussed the reason we have so few items from the Woffindens is an elephant in the room, because my Great Nanny considered Nellie and Horace her parents, and even

though she passed years ago everyone wants to respect that, but the impression among the family is that they didn't return that feeling- there's a photo of her as a toddler being held at arm's length like a sack of potatoes.

Brittany Fitzgerald

USU

English 2210

Professor McNeill

Fall 2018