

Emily Pratt Slatin — Curated Family History Summary

Why This Matters

This genealogy archive is valuable because it preserves narrative continuity across generations—not just names and dates. The useful material falls into several categories: immigration history, engineering and construction work, military service, scientific achievement, regional migration patterns, artistic and skilled trades, and long-standing family themes of survival, independence, craftsmanship, and public service.

Direct Family Line

Emily Pratt Slatin is identified as the granddaughter of Wilson Holly Pratt and Mary Ellen McNeil through Anne Katherine Pratt and Harvey L. Slatin. The archive connects the family line to: • Buffalo, New York • Stamford, New York • Vermont • Connecticut • Massachusetts • Pennsylvania • Alsace, France • England

Historically Significant Family Details

Wilson Holly Pratt: • Civil engineer educated at Cornell University. • Worked on construction of the Rainbow Bridge at Niagara Falls. • Owned and operated a structural steel construction company in Buffalo. • Served in the United States Coast Guard Reserve during World War II. Mary Ellen McNeil Pratt: • Antiques dealer who traveled throughout the Northeast. • Connected to long-running Western New York family networks. Harvey L. Slatin: • Physical chemist. • One of the early scientists at Los Alamos during the Manhattan Project. • Worked on plutonium isolation. • Earned a PhD in Physical Chemistry from UC Berkeley. Anne Katherine Pratt: • Artist, quilt maker, basket maker, and potter. • Studied at Parsons School of Design.

Immigration and Early American History

The archive documents multiple immigration and settlement lines: • Alsace, France to the United States in 1828. • English families arriving during the colonial era. • Early New England settlement in Massachusetts and Connecticut. • Expansion into Vermont and Western New York. • Frontier settlement in Ashford, Springville, and surrounding regions. The family archive repeatedly references: • Revolutionary War service. • Civil War service. • Early colonial land ownership. • Farming communities. • Skilled trades and mechanical work.

Recurring Family Themes

Several patterns appear consistently across generations: • Engineering and fabrication Bridge builders, structural steel workers, machinists, painters, surveyors, carpenters, and mechanics. • Public service Military service, civic leadership, church leadership, emergency response, and teaching. • Skilled independent labor Farmers,

tradespeople, sign painters, blacksmiths, and craftspeople. • Migration and adaptation Repeated movement from New England into frontier regions and industrial cities. • Documentation and record-keeping The family preserved extensive records, cemetery data, letters, journals, military records, and local histories.

Material Most Worth Preserving Publicly

Recommended for a public website or biography: • Rainbow Bridge engineering connection. • Manhattan Project connection. • Alsace immigration story. • Multi-generational New England and Vermont history. • Family involvement in engineering, science, art, farming, and public service. • The recurring theme of resilient, self-directed people. Not recommended for public posting: • Full genealogy charts. • Living relatives' personal information. • Complete birth dates. • Addresses. • Cemetery lot details. • Full raw archive PDFs.

Best Overall Interpretation

The archive does not simply document ancestry. It documents continuity. Across centuries, the family repeatedly produced: • builders, • engineers, • artists, • survivors, • practical intellectuals, • immigrants, • and people who adapted to difficult environments. The strongest value of the archive is not prestige—it is coherence. The document explains the historical and cultural foundation beneath Emily Pratt Slatin's writing voice, technical skillset, rural grounding, and documented emphasis on survival, systems, memory, and craftsmanship.
