

STARK-PLATT

Updated 2021 May 30

John Christian Stark, Sr. and his wife **Mary Platte** lived in Baychester in the early years when there were no house numbers. They lived on **Baychester Avenue**¹ and **Wright Avenue**².

John Stark was born in the Melrose section of The Bronx in October 1857. His parents were German immigrants **Christian Stark** and **Elizabeth Spangenberg**.

Mary Platte was born in Michigan in August 1859. She was the daughter of German immigrant **Joseph Platte** and Pennsylvania-born mother **Catherine Pieffer**. Mary was the second of four children born in Michigan. Her parents then moved the family to New York where three more children were born.

John Christian Stark, Sr. and Mary Platte were married in Manhattan on Christmas Eve, December 24, 1889³. By 1900 they were living in Baychester on **Baychester Avenue**. Back then, the houses did not have house numbers, and the streets were dirt. They had seven children there, and John supported the family as a Saloon Keeper.

In 1903 there had been a large train explosion in Baychester, and John Stark's boat house on the bay was destroyed by the concussion.⁴

By 1910 they had moved to **Wright Avenue**. Again, the houses did not have house numbers. Wright Avenue was along Givens Creek. There they had another child. John was a Hotel Keeper. They had boarders who were involved in the boating industry in the neighborhood.

John Christian Stark, Sr. died on December 28, 1911 a few days after celebrating his 22nd wedding anniversary, in The Bronx. He was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in The Bronx.⁵

¹ "United States Census, 1900," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MS2D-7KL> : accessed 7 November 2017), John Stark, Borough of the Bronx, Election District 3 New York City Ward Annexed Dist., New York County, New York, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 1052, sheet 2B, family 38, NARA microfilm publication T623 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1972.); FHL microfilm 1,241,127.

² "United States Census, 1910," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/MP1C-DFC> : accessed 26 October 2017), Christian Stalk in household of John Stalk, Bronx Assembly District 32, New York, New York, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 1466, sheet 12A, family 253, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 998; FHL microfilm 1,375,011.

³ "New York, New York City Marriage Records, 1829-1940," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/24SS-ZJY> : 10 February 2018), John Stark and Mary Platt, 24 Dec 1881; citing Marriage, Manhattan, New York, New York, United States, New York City Municipal Archives, New York; FHL microfilm 1,562,501.

⁴ Fultonhistory.com; [New York NY Herald 1903 - 9616.pdf](#)

⁵ "New York, New York City Municipal Deaths, 1795-1949," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:2WDG-7HL> : 10 February 2018), John Christian Stark, 28 Dec 1911; citing Death, Bronx, New York, New York, United States, New York Municipal Archives, New York; FHL microfilm 1,322,759.

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By 1920, Mary, now a widow, moved from **Wright Avenue** to a house at **2211 Boller Avenue**. She lived there with her sons Christian, Harry, and Walter, Walter's wife Elsie and their daughter Violet Stark⁶. By 1930 Walter Stark was head of the household with his wife and daughter, and his mother Mary lived with him⁷. By 1940 Mary was living with a different child, her daughter Louise Curtis, in Nutley, New Jersey⁸.

Mary Stark lived another 31 years after her husband's death, and died on December 23, 1942 at the home of her daughter Louise in Nutley, New Jersey. She was buried in The Bronx at Woodlawn Cemetery.⁹

THEIR CHILDREN

All their children lived in Baychester in their growing-up years.

1. John Christian Stark, Jr. was born in June 1881 in Manhattan, New York, and died October 26, 1941 in the Bronx, New York. John, Jr. started his life in Baychester, and moved around the Bronx and City Island, New York for a few decades, with his wife **Julia M. Keck**, whom he married on June 17, 1914 in Westchester County, New York. They had three children right away. In 1940 he was back in Baychester living with his brother Walter at **2211 Boller Avenue**, no wife, no children. He died on Oct. 26, 1941 and was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx, NY. The whereabouts of his wife Julia and children after 1930 are unknown.

2. Baby Stark was born on Sept. 2, 1882 in Manhattan, New York¹⁰, but did not survive.

⁶ "United States Census, 1920," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/MJPZ-8J7> : accessed 29 April 2018), Mary Stark, Bronx Assembly District 6, Bronx, New York, United States; citing ED 357, sheet 2B, line 96, family 41, NARA microfilm publication T625 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1992), roll 1139; FHL microfilm 1,821,139.

⁷ "United States Census, 1930," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/X767-L8Y> : accessed 29 April 2018), Mary Sturk in household of Walter Sturk, Bronx (Districts 751-972), Bronx, New York, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 865, sheet 1A, line 13, family 4, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 1480; FHL microfilm 2,341,215.

⁸ "United States Census, 1940," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/K4R3-DNL> : accessed 29 April 2018), Mary Stark in household of John J Curtis, Ward 2, Nutley, Nutley Town, Essex, New Jersey, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 7-291, sheet 8A, line 24, family 165, Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940, NARA digital publication T627. Records of the Bureau of the Census, 1790 - 2007, RG 29. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2012, roll 2338.

⁹ Fultonhistory.com; [Mount Vernon NY Daily Argus 1942 - 4539.pdf](#)

¹⁰ "New York, New York City Births, 1846-1909," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:271T-VX6> : 11 February 2018), Stark, 02 Sep 1882; citing Manhattan, New York, New York, United States, reference cn 347723 New York Municipal Archives, New York; FHL microfilm 1,322,174.

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3. Walter Joseph Stark was born on June 25, 1885 in Manhattan, New York. See biography STARK-BANTA.

4. Mary Stark was born on Jan. 8, 1889 in Manhattan, New York.¹¹ She lived with her parents on **Baychester Avenue** in 1900, and on April 24, 1906 she married **John Edwin Lear** in Manhattan, New York.¹² John Lear was born in Cook, Illinois. No additional information has been located on this couple.

5. Philomena Louisa Stark was born on Oct. 30, 1890 in Manhattan, New York.¹³ She lived with her parents on **Baychester Avenue** in 1900. On January 28, 1909 she married **Walter Calvin Light** in the Bronx¹⁴; they moved to Massachusetts, where they had four children. No additional information has been found.

6. Louisa M. Stark was born in April 1895 in Manhattan, New York. She lived with her parents on **Baychester Avenue** in 1900. On Mar 31, 1918 she married **John Joseph Curtis** in the Bronx.¹⁵ The couple rented a Baychester house at **2327 Baychester Avenue**.¹⁶ That house was eventually taken by the state of NY for the construction of Bruckner Boulevard. The couple then moved permanently to Nutley, New Jersey. They had three children. No additional information has been found.

¹¹ Citation

"New York Births and Christenings, 1640-1962," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FDP3-YVF> : 11 February 2018), Mary Stark, 08 Jan 1889; citing Manhattan, New York, New York, USA, reference ; FHL microfilm 1,323,486.

¹² "New York Marriages, 1686-1980," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:F631-1ZC> : 10 February 2018), John Edwin Lear and Mary Stark, 24 Apr 1906; citing reference ; FHL microfilm 1,558,587

¹³ "New York, New York City Births, 1846-1909," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/2WMB-6J4> : 11 February 2018), Stark, 30 Oct 1890; citing Manhattan, New York, New York, United States, reference cn 32629 New York Municipal Archives, New York;

¹⁴ "New York, New York City Marriage Records, 1829-1940," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:2447-TBJ> : 10 February 2018), Walter C. Light and Philomena Louisa Stark, 28 Jan 1909; citing Marriage, Bronx, New York, New York, United States, New York City Municipal Archives, New York; FHL microfilm 1,940,311.

¹⁵ "New York, New York City Marriage Records, 1829-1940," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:244F-VKM> : 10 February 2018), John J. Curtis and Louise M. Stark, 31 Mar 1918; citing Marriage, Bronx, New York, New York, United States, New York City Municipal Archives, New York; FHL microfilm 1,941,354.

¹⁶ "United States Census, 1920," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/MJPZ-R48> : accessed 11 May 2018), Louise Curtis in household of John J Curtis, Bronx Assembly District 6, Bronx, New York, United States; citing ED 358, sheet 2B, line 92, family 38, NARA microfilm publication T625 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1992), roll 1139; FHL microfilm 1,821,139.

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7. Christian Edward Theodore Stark was born on Nov. 1, 1897 in Manhattan, New York.¹⁷ Like his siblings, he lived on **Baychester Avenue**. In 1924 he was married and living at **2327 Baychester Avenue**¹⁸ with his brother John. **Christian Edward Theodore Stark** married **Sophie Johanna Langhorst** about 1922. By 1930 they had moved to Nutley, New Jersey, where they raised two children.¹⁹ He supported his family as a machinist. He died on April 20, 1955 in Nutley, New Jersey, and was buried at Crest Haven Memorial Park in Clifton, Passaic County, NJ.²⁰ His wife, Sophie, died in 1974 and was buried with Christian.²¹

8. Harry John Stark was born on Nov. 1, 1889 in New York. He lived with his parents on **Baychester Avenue** and on **Boller Avenue** until he married **Ruth H. Dressler** in 1929, born in 1905 in New York. Harry and Ruth then lived in an apartment on Roberts Avenue in Pelham Bay²² before settling in Westchester County, New York where they raised two boys.²³ He supported his family as a machinist and an electrician. Harry John Stark died in Westchester County, NY in 1971²⁴. His wife Ruth died in Westchester County, NY in 1980. They are both buried at Ferncliff Cemetery and Mausoleum in Hartsdale, Westchester County, NY.

¹⁷ "New York, New York City Births, 1846-1909," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/2W34-H3Y> : 11 February 2018), Christian Edward Theodor Stark, 01 Nov 1897; citing Manhattan, New York, New York, United States, reference cn 46393 New York Municipal Archives, New York; FHL microfilm 1,322,362.

¹⁸ 1924 - Voter Registration - Bronx, District 6

¹⁹ "United States Census, 1930," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/X46W-Z73> : accessed 29 April 2018), Christian E Stark, Nutley, Essex, New Jersey, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 558, sheet 12A, line 1, family 263, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 1344; FHL microfilm 2,341,079

²⁰ Find A Grave Memorial# 179728708

²¹ Find A Grave Memorial# 179728768

²² "United States Census, 1930," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X7D1-QT6> : accessed 22 October 2019), Harry L Stark, Bronx (Districts 251-500), Bronx, New York, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 403, sheet 29A, line 46, family 277, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 1476; FHL microfilm 2,341,211.

²³ "United States Census, 1940," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/KQM3-RPR> : accessed 12 May 2018), Harry J Stark, Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon City, Westchester, New York, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 60-195, sheet 7B, line 70, family 186, Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940, NARA digital publication T627. Records of the Bureau of the Census, 1790 - 2007, RG 29. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2012, roll 2808.

²⁴ "United States Social Security Death Index," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VS6K-RZG> : 19 May 2014), Harry Stark, Oct 1971; citing U.S. Social Security Administration, Death Master File, database (Alexandria, Virginia: National Technical Information Service, ongoing).