

**La Porte County, New Durham Township Justice of the Peace  
Court Record Book Records, 1879–1906**

*Harold Henderson and Callie McCune*

Justice of the peace records for New Durham Township, on the western edge of La Porte County, are housed in the La Porte County Clerk's office. The book containing these records is unlabeled and is heavily worn, with deteriorated binding. The years 1879–1902 are penciled on the inside first page, although cases recorded date as late as 1906. The record book begins with an incomplete index of cases by plaintiff surname and ends on page 432.<sup>1</sup> Evidently this was not the only justice of the peace book used in New Durham, because there are occasional gaps in the record, and the book contains a loose sheet of paper between pages 370 and 371 that came from pages numbered 325 and 326 of a similar book.

The following table provides an overview of each case record in the book. The entry for each case includes page, date, plaintiff(s), defendant(s), nature of the case, signatures (if any), and presiding justice(s) of the peace. An every-name index would provide even more names. Names were often spelled differently even within the same proceeding, and some clerks were less than stellar in penmanship and spelling. Case dates are approximate; some proceedings took more than one day, and some justices gave the date of proceedings or of summonses. Some cases appear out of chronological order, and loose papers have been abstracted where they were found inside the book. Occasionally information of special interest has been added. Some cases were appealed to the county circuit court and can be found in the clerk's office as entries in the order books, in the complete record books, and/or the microfilmed loose papers.

The entries illustrate common themes of this era's court cases. Most involve debt collection, and age-old disputes such as theft, births out of wedlock, and ownership of land and

livestock mix with newer situations involving railroads, drainage, mail-order goods, and immigrant workers suing for their pay. The original book contains additional information.

**Notes**

1. La Porte County, Indiana, Justice of the Peace Record Book, New Dunham Township, 1879–1906; La Porte County Clerk’s Office, LaPorte.

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**New Durham Township Justice of the Peace Court Record Book, 1879–1906**

PAGE	DATE	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	NATURE OF CASE AND REMARKS	JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
2	August 9, 1879	Richard Richardson	Lenard R. Cole George Miller	Debt	Jas S. Sanders
6	September 5, 1879	William Kimbell	Lewis Deshler/ Dishler	Tenancy “near Steamburg Porter County Indiana”	
8	September 13, 1879	William H. Kimball	Lewis Deshler/ Dishler	Ejectment, Jackson Township, Porter County	Jas. S. Sanders
10	September 4, 1879	Biron E. Wing/ Winge [?]	George Allison	Debt	Jas. S. Sanders
12	September 25, 1879	William M. Webber	David C. Williams	Debt	Jas. S. Sanders
14	November 6, 1879	Ralph Davidson August Davidson	William H. Wilkinson	Debt	Jas. S. Sanders

<b>PAGE</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>PLAINTIFF</b>	<b>DEFENDANT</b>	<b>NATURE OF CASE AND REMARKS</b>	<b>JUSTICE OF THE PEACE</b>
16	November 11, 1879	Edward J. Green [signature from 1881]	Levi J. Burdict	Debt	G. S. Thompson
18	November 17, 1879	Elizabeth Stratton administratrix of estate of Jonathan F. Stratton	Marcus Coulter	Debt in probate—3 pages of apparent store accounts 1864–65	Wm. C. Martin Jas. S. Sanders
30	December 15, 1879	William F. Standiford	Chas Medaris Frank E. Medaris	Debt	Jas. S. Sanders George S. Thompson
32	December 15, 1879	Leroy D. Webber	Charles E. Medaris	Debt	Jas. S. Sanders
34	December 23, 1879	Theodore Hagaman	Lucas Hixon/Hixan Arther Hixon/Hixan	Damages for killing his dog and making his wife very ill; witness list—case referred to Scipio Township JP Joseph “Higgans”	Jas. S. Sanders
38	April 1, 1880	William F. Porter	Levi J. Benedict Chancy Weed	Debt	
40	April 3, 1880	Ralph Davidson August Davidson	Mary Gutath	Debt to “Davidson Brothers whole sale and Retail Dealers in Dry Goods & Clothing, No 11 & 13 East Main Street”	
42	April 30, 1880	Simon Will	Mary Gutath	Debt	Jas. S. Sanders
44	December 15, 1880	Ava/Eva J. Tilden	John Charlesworth	Debt for hats, ribbons, and linens—appealed to circuit court 10 January 1881	George S. Thompson
47	January 5, 1881	Brook B. Freeman	William Conquest Sarah C. Conquest	Debt	G. S. Thompson
48	January 15, 1881	Henry Herrold	Mary Gutath/Guthat	Damages for theft of 1200 rails	G. S. Thompson

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51	October 15, 1881	State of Indiana on relation of Lina Heiden [her signature]	Henry Bogue	Bastard, complaint dismissed as Henry “made satisfactory provisions to her for the maintenance of the child”	G. S. Thompson
52	November 11, 1881	Brook B. Freeman	Joseph Huddleson	Debt, including 2-page account of medicines, etc.	G. S. Thompson
57	December 15, 1881	Albert Tuley	William Tuley	Recovery of an unlawfully detained bay horse	G. S. Thompson
58	June 15, 1882	E. M. Bryson [signature]	John Medaris	Debt—John Clark-son signed by mark for Medaris’s bail	William Hetfield
60	June 29, 1882	Granvill Armitage	John F. Clark	Debt	William Hetfield
62	July 19, 1882	E. M. Bryson	John Bartley	Debt	William Hetfield
65	September 12, 1882	G. F. Rathbone Grange Sard Jr. R. S. Oliver E. Bowditch Wm. H. Sard	William Webber	Debt on “Loyal Acorn” and “Black Acorn” stoves plus express charges and interest; plaintiffs “Rathbone Sard & Co.” of Chicago	William Hetfield
67	September 22, 1882	Levi Field	Thomas T. Concanon William Tuley	Debt for black-smithing; full page account and jury list	
69	September 22, 1882	Levi Field	Wm. Tuley	Debt for black-smithing	William Hetfield
70	September 7, 1882	William J. Smith [signature]	Brook B. Freeman [signature]	Debt	
72	October 30, 1882	Brook B. Freeman	Charles Keech/Keach	Debt	
74	February 26, 1883	John A. Pastor	William Kester	Debt	

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76	May 14, 1883	Stept Osinski Josef Kusz [or Steppen Aushinsky & Joh. Kush]	Samuel S. Davis	Debt for cutting wood and labor	James Quick William Hetfield
79	May 22, 1883	E. M. Bryson	Ed. R. Wilkison	Debt	William Hetfield
80	August 3, 1883	Julius Barns	P. P. Smith Ella Smith OR Miss Ella Cole	Debt from 1876 for buttons, threads, and other dry goods	William Hetfield
81	August 3, 1883	Thrush	Gilbert Randall B. B. Freeman	Debt for meat	William Hetfield
82	August 11, 1883	Leroy D. Webber	Jonas Mangneson or Mangunson	Debt	William Hetfield
84	March 24, 1884	B. F. Shunk	Daniel Anderson	Debt	William Hetfield
85	June 16, 1884	J. P Schreader	B. W. Hollenbeck	Debt	William Hetfield
86	August 12, 1884	B. M. Zener	A. S. Culvertson	Debt	William Hetfield
87	September 27, 1884	Killian A. Brant	John Stringer	Debt	William Hetfield
90	September 31 [sic?], 1885	Joseph Brocker	Wm T. Concanon	Debt “suit by transcript”	B. M. Zener Wm. Hetfield
93–96 cut out of book					
97	May 21, 1888	Killian A. Brant	Herman Warnke	Debt	Arthur M. Brewer
99–100 cut out of book					
101	November 13, 1888	E. S. Smith	Annet Lindsay Josephine Lindsay	Debt	Arthur M. Brewer
103	January 5, 1889	James Lower	Andrew Young	Debt	Arthur M. Brewer
105–06 cut out of book					

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108	December 17, 1889	Lena Goers “with her interpreter” William Goers	John Ortman	Bastard, baby born 18 November; complaint found true by JP and circuit court; \$300 maintenance, Frederick Ortman bail; Circuit Court Order Book 9:556, civil microfilm roll 83, no. 14069	Arthur M. Brewer
111–12 cut out of book					
113	December 21, 1889	Elmon Ansley	John Livingston	Debt—defendant non-resident, garnishment of Baltimore & Ohio RR Co.	Arthur M. Brewer
118	July 3, 1890	Abraham Levering Thomas J. Levering	David F. Cax	Debt	Arthur M. Brewer
122	July 13, 1890	Moses D. Wells Henry J. McForland Brenton P. Wells	David F. Cax	Debt; plaintiffs evidently of Chicago	Arthur M. Brewer
126	June 25, 1890	John V. Farwell Chas. B. Farwell John K. Harmon John T. Chumaserod John V. Farwell Jr.	David F. Cax	Debt; plaintiffs of Chicago	Arthur M. Brewer
129	August 8, 1895	Samuel S. Davis	Christopher Rotzine	[page is blank]	B. M. Zener
131	July 21, 1891	Algernon S. Orr	Hezekiah Barr	Damages for wandering cattle, broken fence, injuring throat	Arthur M. Brewer
133	November 27, 1891	Ephraim M. Bryson	Pearl P. Smith	Replevin, theft of lumber: 3000 feet of “scantling inch Board plank studing & c. Lumber;” jury list	Arthur M. Brewer

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135	June 25, 1892	Franklin R. Betz	George Nowak	Damages for inadequate tiling of lot in Otis—witnesses J. W. Herrold, J. Barnes, J. Rapp, P. Shunk, M. Lebarger for plttf., J. Spakalaski and Rosie his wife, L. Pelaski, J. Ruzinshek, M. Lavendoski, J. Andresceak, and Francis Nowak for defendant.	Arthur M. Brewer
137	December 3, 1892	Jacob Herrold	David Lisk	Debt	Arthur M. Brewer
139	December 8, 1892	Fredrick Hartmann Edward Lannewitz Henry J. Hartmann	Reith & Mann	Debt; plaintiffs of Grand Rapids, Michigan	Arthur M. Brewer
142	July 8, 1893	State of Indiana	James Jones	Forgery and obtaining money and goods under false pretenses on Gaylord Jessup	Arthur M. Brewer
144	September 22, 1893	Jane Herrold	J. Stagg	Debt	
149	September 22, 1893	Jane Herrold	Mike McNeff	Debt; garnishment on Wabash Rail Road Company	Arthur M. Brewer
155	September 22, 1893	Jane Herrold	B. R. Velanke	Debt; garnishment on Wabash Railway	Arthur M. Brewer
161	September 22, 1893	Jane Herrold	Larimer	Debt; garnishment on Wabash Railway	Arthur M. Brewer
163	October 10, 1892	Henry Herrold	Emma Cordes	Debt—recovery of taxes after sale of Westville lot	Arthur M. Brewer

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165	April 18, 1895	S. G. Hans	Emeline Tuley	Debt for black-smithing; 2-page itemized list of work; case sent to Samuel Davis JP in same township	B. M. Zener
169	February 7, 1895	Julias Weederman	Louis Miller	Debt—pay for 7 months' work	B. M. Zener
171	April 15, 1895	John Kosmatka	Emeline Tuley	Debt	B. M. Zener
173	April 26, 1895	Herold Brothers	Mrs. John Tuley	Debt	B. M. Zener
175	February 25, 1895	Azirah Williams	John Ohime	Debt	B. M. Zener
176	March 26, 1895	Bessie Gray	John Baird	Bastard (pregnant at time of complaint); case to circuit court with \$700 bond for Baird's appearance there	B. M. Zener
179	April 15, 1895	State of Indiana	Henry Augustine/ Augtine	Charley Dahlke sought protection from threat "to kill affiant before tomorrow morning"	B. M. Zener
181	May 27, 1895	John Stoner	A. (J.?) M. Wilkison Cora Parson Mix James Flood	Debt; J. D. Stoner signature	B. M. Zener
183–84 cut out of book					
185	June 10, 1895	William Kreezell	John Lomas	Debt	B. M. Zener
187	August 2, 1895	Elmon or Elmore Ansley Emmerson E. Nichols	H. Seymour Clawson	Debt; continued pp. 198–200	B. M. Zener O. H. Smith
194	August 14, 1895	Samuel S. Davis	Christopher Rotzine	Debt; continued p. 227, witness and jury lists	B. M. Zener
197	November 5, 1894	George Holinsworth	Polaski Koontz	Debt	O. H. Smith



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201	January 2, 1903	Lewis Crane	Albert Dahlke	Debt	A. M. Brewer
203	September 23, 1895	Clarence Hess	W. P. Turner H. N. Wade A. D. Moley	Debt; failure to make good on warranty of windmill—several other cases appear identical	O. H. Smith
211	October 21, 1895 and into 1896	Luis/Lewis Williams	Matilda J. Brewer	Debt—William H. Reynolds garnished	O. H. Smith
229	December 14, 1895	John Hilton	Freeman Scarbrough	Debt; appealed to circuit court	O. H. Smith
233	December 23, 1895	W. H. Koontz	Charlie Brown	Debt	
235	December 23, 1895	L. P. Herold	M. C. Howell	Debt	O. H. Smith
239	January 15, 1896	E. S. Smith	George W. Reed Joseph Reed	Debt—original note with Reeds' signatures pinned in on Bank of Westville letterhead	O. H. Smith
247	March 30, 1896	George Howlinsworth	Charles Scarbrough	Debt involving Bank of "Wana- taugh"	O. H. Smith
249	June 8, 1896	C. E. Stubs E. A. Hourd	H. A. Biesel	Debt \$100; plaintiff of Chicago, construction of a factory in Westville	O. H. Smith
251	February 23, 1897	Amos Brockway	Thomas Herold	Theft of horse bridles & collars	O. H. Smith
253, 258, 261– 75, 279	March 13, 1897	Alson/Alsin Hixon	Schuyler Sigler/ Cigler	Debt and dispute over construction of Westville school; town trustees named	O. H. Smith
257	March 14, 1897	Patrick Kilday	Thomas Garwood	Debt; A. Williams filed lien on judgment 15 March	O. H. Smith
259	March 19, 1897	E. G. Scott	Samuel Rush	Debt	O. H. Smith

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277	June 3, 1897	L. P. Herold	Luis H. Miller	Debt	O. H. Smith
281	July 3, 1897	New Durham Township, Herbert Cathcart, Supervisor, Road Dist. 4	Thomas Buger	Failing to work on road	O. H. Smith
283	July 6, 1897	New Durham Township, James Augustine, Supervisor, Road Dist. 5	Charley Brown	Failing to work on road	O. H. Smith
285	July 18, 1897	Elmon Ansley	Willis M. Warnock	Debt; copy of Warnock's signed note, receipts signed by Ansley	O. H. Smith
291	October 20, 1897	Joseph Ronnoski OR Jorge Casanoski	John Switser	Debt; Switser said to be about to leave state	O. H. Smith
293	November 16, 1897	A. M. Brewer	Marey Sanders Reuben H. Sanders	Debt for oak lumber	William Terwilliger
297	February 21, 1898	Warder, Bushnell, & Glessner Co.	Lewis C. Miller Charles E. Miller	Debt; plaintiff of Chicago	William Terwilliger
299	May 5, 1898	Herman Nathan and Co.	Charles E. Miller Charles H. Heiden	Debt	William Terwilliger
301	May 13, 1898	New Durham Township, Herbert Cathcart, Road Supervisor, District No. 4	John Kopzinski	Failure to work on road	William Terwilliger
302	July 9, 1898	New Durham Township, Frank McCaslin, Road Supervisor, District No. 1	H. S. Jessup/Gessup	Failure to work on road	William Terwilliger
303	August 1, 1898	G. Schnewind	Charles E. Miller	Debt	William Terwilliger
304	June 9, 1898	Francis E. Brown	William P. Donahue	Debt; garnishment of Baltimore and Ohio Railroad	William Terwilliger
305	September 17, 1898	James Helfirker	Miller and Heiden	Debt	William Terwilliger
306	October 29, 1898	E. E. Nickolas	Ed Gloff	Debt; note signed by Gloff	William Terwilliger

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307	February 3, 1899	Elmer Ansley	William Powell Lewis C. Miller	Debt	William Terwilliger
309	December 31, 1898	John B. Wagner	George W. Winters	Debt; note signed by Winters, on Bank of Westville paper	William Terwilliger
311	January 3, 1899	Gustave Davison and Porter	Charles E. Miller	Debt	William Terwilliger
312	January 9, 1899	Wardner Bushnell Glesner Co.	Lewis C. Miller Charles E. Miller	Debt; receipt signed by Millers	William Terwilliger
314	[No date, 1899?]	Benjamin W. Hollenbeck	William Donohue	Debt	
315	March 31, 1899	Victor Oil Company	Lewis C. Miller	Debt; plaintiff of Cleveland	William Terwilliger
316	April 1, 1899	Frank Hixson	Lewis C. Miller	Debt	William Terwilliger
317	February 2, 1899	Henry A. Chase	Thomas Garwood Lewis C. Miller	Debt; note signed by Garwood	William Terwilliger
319	February 1, 1899	Henry A. Chase	Thomas Garwood Lewis C. Miller	Debt	William Terwilliger
321	May 26, 1899	New Durham Township Trustee Hiram B. Herrold	Herbert Cathcart	Unlawful possession of township records and road-grading equipment	William Terwilliger
323	May 29, 1899	Oakes A. Shunk	Charles E. Miller	Debt; note signed by Miller	William Terwilliger
325	June 6, 1899	James Hilfiker	Lewis C. Miller	Debt; note signed by Miller	William Terwilliger
327	August 9, 1899	Charles M. Williams	E. J. McCrece	Debt; garnishment of Baltimore & Ohio Railroad	William Terwilliger
328	August 19, 1899	David Bradley Manufacturing Co.	Lewis C. Miller	Debt	William Terwilliger
330	January 6, 1899	Elmer Ansley	Lewis C. Miller	Debt; receipt signed by Ansley	William Terwilliger
332	February 13, 1899	M. Henoeh Corporation	Lewis C. Miller	Debt	William Terwilliger

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335	March 21, 1899	Samuel G. Hans	Lewis C. Miller	Debt; note signed by Miller	William Terwilliger
337	April 9, 1899	Agultman/Aultman Miller & Co.	Lewis C. Miller	Debt; note signed by Miller; plaintiff of Ohio	William Terwilliger
339	October 4, 1899	Andrew Young	C. M. Williams	Debt; assignment signed by Young	William Terwilliger
341	November 18, 1899	Lewis C. Miller	John Forrester	Debt	William Terwilliger
344	January 20, 1900	Charles Wiesman	Lewis C. Miller	Debt	William Terwilliger
346	January 27, 1900	Elmon Ansley	William Foulert	Debt	William Terwilliger
348	March 13, 1900	Durand & Kasper Co.	Homer Ansley	Debt; plaintiffs of Cook County, Illinois	William Terwilliger
351	June 4, 1900	Albert F. Lundquist Ellen Lundquist Edwin Lundquist	Charles Bastrom	Debt	William Terwilliger
353	September 19, 1900	James O. Burner	Robert Ansley	Debt	William Terwilliger
356	November 22, 1900	Charles Rozean	Benjamin F. Reed	Debt	William Terwilliger
358	February 4, 1901	Isaac Reed	Lewis C. Miller	Debt; Miller's signed note pinned in	William Terwilliger
359	February 20, 1901	The Times Herrold Company	William Conlon Homer Ansley	Debt; plaintiff of Illinois	William Terwilliger
360	February 12, 1901	Paul Leets	John Schmidt	Unlawful possession of single-seated cutter, replevin; defendant witness list: John Wherrett, William Bowman, John Osborn, Roman Gruse, William Boland	William Terwilliger

<b>PAGE</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>PLAINTIFF</b>	<b>DEFENDANT</b>	<b>NATURE OF CASE AND REMARKS</b>	<b>JUSTICE OF THE PEACE</b>
Be- tween 364– 65	December 15, 1892			Original mortgage: William Jardine mortgaged 2 parcels totaling 15 acres in Section 14, T36 R5W, Porter County, to Edwin Greening and Rose his wife, for \$950 at 6% interest due 1 January 1894	David B. Reynolds
366	April 12, 1901	Charles H. Michal	William H. Marvel Martin Marvel	Debt; note signed by Marvels; Martin signed by mark, witness J. W. Rogers	William Terwilliger
368	August 12, 1901	Charles Kalies	Nick S. N. Lieson	Debt; note signed by Lieson	William Terwilliger
370	February 1, 1902	James H. Hilficker	Lewis C. Miller	Debt	A. M. Brewer
Be- tween 370– 71	November 4, 1884 [original p. 325]	State of Indiana	Sheperd Crumpacher	Assault and battery based on George W. Winters affidavit	Benjamin M. Zener
Be- tween 370– 71	July 4, 1885 [original p. 326]	Lewis Flecher	Wm. High/Hiyah	Drunk and disorderly	B. M. Zener
Be- tween 370– 71	March 27, 1903	Benjamin W. Hollenbeck	Frank McCaslin Sarah J. McCaslin (wife)	Debt—original complaint	Arthur M. Brewer
371	July 4, 1902	Homer Ansley	Nick Gisen	Debt	A. M. Brewer
372	December 13, 1902	John H. Gilbert	Benjamin Bartmess	Debt	A. M. Brewer
374	December 10, 1902	Henry Obringer	Nick Gisen	Debt; execution in 1910?	A. M. Brewer
375	January 16, 1903	Henry Obringer	Nicholas Geisen	Debt	A. M. Brewer

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379	February 13, 1903	Louis Peglow	Albert Dahlke	Debt	A. M. Brewer
381	March 3, 1903	William J. Henry	Henry Herrold	Debt	A. M. Brewer
383	March 27, 1903	Benjamin W. Hollenbeck	Frank McCaslin and wife Sarah J.	Debt for medical services to Sarah	A. M. Brewer
385	March 16, 1904	McNeil & Higgins Co.	Charles E. Miller	Debt; plaintiff of Illinois	A. M. Brewer
388	May 17, 1904	Andrew J. Forbes	Henry Herrold	Debt	A. M. Brewer
391	May 21, 1904	Azariah Williams	Frank P. Livingston	Debt	A. M. Brewer
394	July 20, 1904	Joseph Gardner	Charles M. Williams	Debt	A. M. Brewer
399–400 cut out of book					
402	August 22, 1904	Henry F. Draves	Albert Dahlke Emma Dahlke	Debt	A. M. Brewer
405	August 27, 1904	William Glancy	Frank Shannon	Debt	A. M. Brewer
407	November 26, 1904	Edward Allen	Oscar Miller	Debt	A. M. Brewer
409	December 12, 1904	Thadeus H. Forbes	Nick Geisen	Debt	
412	December 24, 1904	Oretha West	William E. Condon	Dispute over leased 33-acre farm in Cass Township, Irving C. Philips, J.P.; changed venue to New Durham Township; settled out of court	Irving C. Philips
418	February 25, 1905	Daniel West Weed	N. Geisen	Debt	A. M. Brewer
421	March 6, 1905	Emerson E. Nichols	Nick Geisen	Debt	A. M. Brewer
423	March 6, 1905	A. J. Forbes	Nick Geisen	Debt	A. M. Brewer

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426	January 12, 1906	American Steel & Wire Co.	Andrew J. Forbes	Debt; defendant appealed to Mich. City Superior Court 23 February 1906, with E. S. Scott surety; plaintiff of Illinois	A. M. Brewer
431	July 22, 1901	Hamilton Forbes	T. R. Armstrong	Debt for 6 weeks' board and merchandise; defendant might move property out of state	Wm. Terwilliger
432	April 4, 1899	Rosebelle Livingston	[none]	Estray, year-old heifer	Wm. Terwilliger

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