

This is the 4th generation, the 3rd after Amos London Bills and represents my aunts, uncles and parents. This documents the descendants of Gersham Bills.

Gersham's first child was his daughter Anna Belle Bills (1874-1922) She married John Travis Bryant (1867-1953) and they had three offspring. Following are their grandchildren.

82. Wayne Cullen Bryant 25 JUL 1894 • Navarro, TX - 28 JUN 1953 • Shreveport, Caddo Parish, LA
Margaret Ruth Hamilton 31 JAN 1894 • Roby, Fisher, TX - 11 AUG 1980 • Hattiesburg, Forrest, MS



Many thanks to cousin Sue Thomson (granddaughter of Wayne) has provided these photos and has many more in her family tree on Ancestry. She also provided this narrative which I have edited slightly. Much of it is about Wayne's father, John Travis Bryant, son of Anthony A. Bryant and Susan Anna Hammond. I will construct my own narrative following Sue's input based on the documents that I have, but perhaps I will be able to make better conclusions now.

After John Travis Bryant's wife Anna Belle Bill died from the asthma attack in Stamford (where they lived after selling the store in Frost, John moved in with Wayne and Ruth (or they moved in with him) (Her family were from Sweetwater, Texas) Her father Samuel Paul Hamilton was a RR man.) I think J.T. owned a store in Stamford, or a branch of his prior store. I think the young couple actually moved in with him. Then they moved several times, as you point out. After Ft. Worth (where both Wayne Sr and Jr worked for the Ely Walker mercantile store, and where my parents met before WWII) and San Antonio (my dad and one aunt graduated from Thos. Jefferson HS), they ended up in Shreveport, still living together, and both father (JT) and son (Wayne) died in 1953. JT in April, and Wayne in July. It is one of my first memories: seeing my mother on the phone crying. I was 6. My father, Wayne H, (aka Jack Travis) was killed in a car accident almost exactly 10 years later.

John Travis was indeed the Superintendent of Schools and was written up in a book I reference in my support materials on Ancestry. Later, in Frost (also Navarro Co.), he owned the local mercantile store, Bryant & Son. The family story is he gave customers too much credit around the Depression, and went out of business. I found a bunch of newspaper articles and store ads on a Texas newspaper website (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/>) showing him sending Wayne out to buy more merchandise, then having a huge sale. As a businessperson myself, I had the definite impression he had a cash flow problem. Not long after the sale, the company's advertisements changed stating "formerly Bryant & Son". I haven't yet gotten these photos to Ancestry.

You were right about Wayne's siblings: they both died young. One at 14 as I recall. Unable to find death certificates for either one.



Wayne was born in Corsicana in 1894 and appeared in the 1900 census as the first son of J.T and Anna. They lived at 708 2nd Ave in Corsicana and his father was a clerk in a dry goods store. I'm not sure when they became owners of their own store.

In the 1910 census, they had moved from Navarro County to the small town of Venus which is south of Ft. Worth. They lived at a rented house on Locust St, and apparently owned a store at this time. JT was a merchant, and fifteen-year-old Wayne was a sales boy at the store. The census notes that Anna by this time had borne 3 children,

but only 2 were surviving. This corresponds to information about brother Raymond who was born 1905 and died 1906 and brother Jerry who is shown in the census as 9 years old.

In June of 1917, Wayne registered for the draft for WW1. His registration card yielded the following information. He was 22 years old of medium height, slender build with blue eyes and light hair. He was not bald. He lived at 101 E. Campbell in Stamford and was a manager for Eberhart & Tender Tire Co of Abilene. A couple of months after registering, he married Ruth Hamilton. Ruth and Wayne were both 22 years old. The marriage record lists October 1917 as their wedding date, but notes on Sue Thomson's site indicates that in a letter from Ruth to her daughter, they had married in September. Ruth came from a pretty large family in Sweetwater where her father had been a rancher and later a railroad man. Less than a year after their marriage, Wayne went into active service in the US Army from 5 Aug 1918-3 Jan 1919 • Bowie County, Texas as a Pvt. in the Quartermaster Corps. WWI armistice ended the war as he was about to be shipped overseas. (From Sue Thomson's tree) He looked quite sharp in his uniform in the opening picture. Here is a link to Camp Bowie which was in Fort Worth. (<https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=201885>)



The 1920 Census found Wayne and Ruth living in Stamford at 575 East Haag Street. Per Sue Thomson and the census, Wayne was a traveling salesman for Williams Dry Goods Company of Waco. Sue continues that he then hired on with the Ely Walker Company of St Louis and was assigned the Oklahoma territory so they moved to Enid Oklahoma for a year. There is a City Directory showing them here. While they were there in Feb 1921, their first son, Wayne Hamilton (aka Jack Travis) was born. In 1922. His father must have needed help, so Wayne and Ruth returned from Oklahoma when, Wayne's daughter writes, "Papa had given Daddy half interest in the business and a five-room house to return". Wayne's mother

died from asthma and a heart attack shortly after their return. In 1923 and 1928, daughters were born when they lived in Stamford. It was probably around this time that the problems with the business that Sue's introduction mentioned came to pass and Bryant & Sons was sold. Here is part of one of their ads from their Stamford Store in 1924.

The 1930 Census found the family living at 2004 College Ave (which they rented for \$40/mo.) in Fort Worth with a son, two daughters, and Wayne's father in the home. Both Wayne and JT were working in Dry Goods. We determine from the 1940 census that they had moved to Dallas in 1935. These folks didn't plant many roots early in their lives.

Continuing with the 1940 census, they owned a house at 431 Furr Drive in San Antonio. This was right near Thomas Jefferson HS and less than 2 miles from where I went to Peacock Military Academy in High School. They owned their house and it was worth \$6000. Both Ruth and Wayne had completed their junior year in high school and at the time of the census, son Jack was a junior and sister Margaret was a sophomore. The youngest daughter Betty was a 5th grader. In 1942, Wayne registered for the draft as required, although he was 47. He was 5'-10 ½" and 165 lbs. with blue eyes, brown hair, and a dark complexion. A city directory showed that in 1943, they had moved to Shreveport, and were living at 525 Oneonta and Wayne Sr. was still a salesman. The 1949 Shreveport newspaper had a description of an elaborate wedding for Betty, to Victor Tessier Mather III, which Wayne and Ruth hosted in their backyard. The older siblings had married before they moved from San Antonio: Wayne H. married Cooper, Texas girl, Louise Brice near where he was in training to be a Glider Pilot in WWII, and Margaret married Austin White LaMarche, also serving in the war.

The 1950 Census found Wayne, Ruth and 83-year-old JT living at 2651 Greenway in Shreveport. JT, "Papa," had his own apartment—an attachment to the back of the home's brick garage. There, he grew roses, hydrangeas and numerous other blossoming beauties in a special garden at the back end of their spacious back yard. It was a beautiful site for a wedding, and other family photos.! Wayne, Sr. was still a wholesale clothing salesman for Curlee Clothiers of St, Louis, where he moved up rapidly. As a manufacturer's rep, he traveled the state of Louisiana to men's furnishings stores and departments. During that period, Betty graduated from C.E. Byrd H. S., becoming the first of three generations of Bryant descendants to do so.

After the war, Wayne, Jr. "Jack," and his wife also moved to Shreveport, where he became a real estate agent and broker, later owning his own agency. When Wayne, Sr. Died, Wayne H. completed the remaining calls scheduled for his father for the month. He was offered his dad's former territory, which he accepted. A taxing job, he would set out on Monday mornings, not returning until Friday afternoons, driving to every small town in Louisiana, it seems, that had an appropriate business interested in carrying the Curlee brand. His death came on one such Monday morning, before he ever reached Natchitoches, LA.

I haven't found Wayne, Sr.'s death certificate, but both he and his father died in 1953 of heart attacks. Ruth lived until 1980. She remained in Shreveport for a number of years after her father-in-law, husband and son had all died, providing moral support to Wayne Jr.'s young widow and their 3 daughters. She later bought a new house and moved to Hattiesburg, MS where Betty had settled with her family. She died there in 1980. (Findagrave)

Children of Wayne and Ruth:

- 219. Wayne Hamilton Bryant 1921–1963
- 220. Margaret Hamilton Bryant 1923–1985
- 221. Betty Ruth Bryant 1928–1990

83. Jerry Eldwyn Bryant OCT 1901 Frost, Navarro - 4 JUNE 1914 Frost, Navarro



Jerry appeared in the 1910 census as an 8-year-old when the family lived in Venus. The census indicated that another sibling had died before his death in 1914. That is the only information that I have been able to find about him. He is buried at the Frost Cemetery and here is his grave marker.

84. Raymond Travis Bryant 1905 Frost, Navarro - 1906 Frost, Navarro



Even less is known about the youngest child apart from this headstone in the Frost Cemetery.

Gersham's second child was his daughter Hallie Clara Bills (1875-1957) and her husband Gayler Lee Ledford (1873-1919) and they had seven offspring. These are their grandchildren.

85. Lillian Ivy Ledford 14 AUG 1900 • Frost, TX - 4 FEB 1979 • Hubbard, Hill, TX
Carl Tappan Kelley 16 JAN 1898 • Alabama - 28 AUG 1961 • Hubbard, Hill, Texas, USA

The only photo that I have found of Lillian is a group photo of her sophomore class at Hubbard HS in 1916 and I don't know which one she is. Currently later years are not in the database. I don't have any of Carl except for his gravestone.

Lillian was the first child of Hallie and Gayler and was born in Frost, Navarro County in 1900. The census that year was in June and Lillian was born in August, so she missed being counted. In 1910, they had moved to Hubbard and this was her first census appearance. The enumerator was a little sloppy so her age looks like 9, written over with 11. Based on her birthdate, the 9 should be correct. It looks like they lived at 609 Walnut St in a house that they owned and her father was a salesman in groceries. Two more sisters and a brother were in the household and Hallie had lost a child somewhere between 1900 and 1910. My best guess was that it happened in 1904. Her father died in 1919.

The 1920 Census found 19-year-old Lillian living with her widowed mother in a rented house on Pecan Street in Hubbard. She also had three younger sisters and two younger brothers. Lillian was teaching school at this time, but I'm not certain where, but I would guess at an elementary school in Hubbard. I looked at the Hubbard HS faculty and she was not there.

In 1921, she married Carl Kelly. Carl was born in either Alabama or Tyler TX. He was raised on a farm in Hill County and was working at his father's farm when they married. He had registered for the draft in WW1 in 1918 that showed him to be a farm laborer of medium height and medium build and blue eyes and dark hair. In the 1930 Census, he worked as a merchant in the retail grocery business. It also indicated that he was not a veteran, so he did not get drafted. He and Lillian owned a home worth \$2500 at 912 North Wall in Shamrock Texas which is way up in the Panhandle east of Amarillo near the Oklahoma border. I found a note in the Shamrock newspaper from 1930 that he was the manager of City Grocery and Market. I found another news article that indicated that Lillian was a Sunday School teacher at the Methodist Church. Sometime before 1935, they left Shamrock and moved back to Hubbard.

The 1940 Census found them in Hubbard, and Carl was managing a service station. The census noted that Carl left school after the 7th grade while Lillian left after her junior year of high school. That's interesting since she was a teacher in 1920. He registered for the draft in WW2 and in this registration, it indicated that he was born in Smith County, TX. It also indicated that he owned his service station. He was 5'-10" - 182 lbs. - with blue eyes and gray hair with a ruddy complexion.

The 1950 Census found them at 501 Live Oak Rd in Hubbard. Carl was still running his service station. Her younger sister Jessie died in 1951, and her mother died in 1957. Carl died from heart issues in 1961. She lost several more of her younger siblings before her death of a heart attack in 1979 at the age of 78. Carl and Lillian never had any children.

86. Abbie Mae Ledford 6 JUN 1902 • Frost, Navarro, TX - 18 NOV 1975 • Waco, McLennan County, TX
William Elmer Wollard 23 AUG 1898 • Dallas, Missouri - 28 MAR 1963 • Waco, McLennan, TX



Again, the only photos I have of Abbie and Bill is their headstone in Waco.

Abbie was the second child of Hallie and Gayler and was born in Frost, Navarro County in 1902. By 1910, they lived at 609 Walnut St in a house that they owned and her father was a salesman in groceries. One younger sister and a brother were in the household and Hallie had lost a child somewhere between 1900 and 1910. My best guess was that it happened in 1904. Her father died in 1919.

The 1920 Census found 17-year-old Abbie living with her widowed mother in a rented house on Pecan Street in Hubbard. She also had one older and two younger sisters and two younger brothers. On Christmas Eve 1924, she married William Wollard. William was about 4 years older and had previously married Annie Claire Rubin in about 1917, but she and her baby died during childbirth in 1922. William was a farmer on a nearby farm. In his WW1 draft registration in 1917, he was already married to his first wife. He was medium build, medium height, and had blue eyes and brown hair.

The 1930 Census found William and Abbie (identified as Willie E - probably Mrs Willie E). The census said that William's first marriage was when he was 19 and Abbie's was with William when she was 22. They lived on Mt Calm Rural Road 1 outside of Mt Calm. Their two girls Bobbie and Mary Sue had been born in 1928 and 1929 so they were both in this census. The census also indicated that he was not a veteran so he was not drafted.

The 1940 census found them living at a rented farm on Griffin Road outside Mt Calm. It also shows that William had completed his junior year of high school and Abbie had graduated from high school. Unfortunately, the Hubbard yearbooks for these years aren't available. Bobbie and Mary Sue were in the 5th and 4th grade. They also had a 22-year-old hired hand living with them. His name is not clear but perhaps it was Slender Pearson. According to William's obituary, he moved from Mt Calm to Hewitt in 1947 and got involved in the grocery business while farming on the side. In 1948, their oldest daughter Bobbie married in Marlin TX.

Unfortunately, I have been unable to find the Wollards in the 1950 Census. Their oldest daughter had married and their youngest daughter was living at the YWCA in Waco most likely attending school. Mary Sue got married in 1952 and her announcement indicated that Abbie and William were living at 5015 Beverly Drive in Waco. They must have been there temporarily because I found a news article indicating that they bought a lot in Hewitt in 1953. Her younger sister Jessie died in 1951. Her mother died in 1957. William died in 1963 and Abbie lived on until 1975. At the time of her death, she was in the Twin Oaks Nursing Home in Waco. On her death certificate, her father is incorrectly identified as Truitt Lee Ledford instead of Gayler.

Children of Abbie and William:

- 222. Bobbie Wollard 1928–Living?
- 223. Mary Sue Wollard 1929–Living?

87. Unknown Ledford 21 MAR 1904 • Frost, Navarro, TX - 1904 • Frost, Navarro, TX

The only information that I have about this child are copies of birth records in Navarro County on 21 Mar 1904. I have not found a grave marker.

88. Minnie Fae Ledford 15 FEBRUARY 1906 • Frost, Navarro, TX - 21 FEB 1985 • Hill, Texas
Warren Newton Kelley 05 DEC 1888 • Carrollton, GA - 6 JAN 1965 • Corsicana, Navarro, TX



Minnie was the third surviving child of Hallie and Gayler and was born in Frost, Navarro County in 1906. By 1910, she lived at 609 Walnut St in a house that was owned and her father was a salesman in groceries. One younger brother and two older sisters were in the household and her mother Hallie had lost a child in 1904. Her father died in 1919.

The 1920 Census found 13-year-old Abbie living with her widowed mother in a rented house on Pecan Street in Hubbard. She also had two older sisters, one younger sister, and two younger brothers. I assume that Minnie was working her way through school. In 1929, she married a much older Warren Kelley. Warren was the brother of Minnie's older sister Lillian. He had previously married Zola Morgan in 1909, but she died in childbirth in 1915. There is a City Directory showing them living in Colorado Springs in 1911 and Warren was working at a grocery. Warren registered for the draft for WW1 in June 1917 and he was described as medium height, slender, with gray eyes and black hair. He claimed an exemption for supporting his aunt. He was a farmer. Apparently, that claim didn't work as he entered service on 23 June 1918 and served until 24 July 1919. According to his headstone, he was a cook. He shipped out in Oct 1918 and was in the Veterinary Unit #12 and returned with the same unit sailing from Brest, France on June 28, 1919 aboard the S. S. Nansmond. He may well have been aboard as this picture was taken. I found some information about the unit at these websites which are very interesting.

<https://freepages.rootsweb.com/~gregkrenzelo/genealogy/veterinary%20corp%20in%20ww1/veterinary%20corp%20in%20ww1.html>



<https://freepages.rootsweb.com/~gregkrenzelo/genealogy/veterinary%20corp%20in%20ww1/veterinary%20corp%20in%20ww1.html>

After the war, he returned to his father's farm in Hill County and was living there with his younger brother Carl, and two younger sisters. As you may recall, Carl married Minnie's older sister Lillian in 1921.

In 1930, they were living in a rented house on North Houston Street in Shamrock. Warren was a salesman of retail dry goods. It's beginning to look a little like Warren and Carl may have been in business together as Carl was the manager of the City Grocery Store. The census does not acknowledge his first marriage in that it claimed that he was 42 when he first married and Minnie was 22. By 1935, along with his brother, they had moved back to Hubbard.

The 1940 census found them living in Hubbard at an unknown address living in a house that they owned that was worth \$1000. Warren was working with his brother at the service station and Minnie was a saleslady of clothing. The census noted that Warren had attended school through the 7th grade and Minnie had graduated from high school. In Dec 1940, they had a son. Warren would have been 51 and Minnie was 34. His mother died in 1941. He registered for the WW2 draft in 1942 at the age of 53. This showed that he was 5'-7 1/2" - 165 lbs. with gray eyes, gray hair and a dark complexion.

In the 1950 census, they lived at 201 Live Oak in Hubbard. This was very near Carl and Lillian. Warren claimed to have worked 80 hrs/week at his service station. Both Carl and Warren claim to be owners of service stations so I'm going to assume that they were partners. Minnie was not working and nine-year-old Warren was likely in school.

Her younger sister Jessie died in 1951, and her mother died in 1957. Brother-in-law, Carl died from heart issues in 1961. Her husband Warren died in 1965. Son Warren got married in 1966 and grandchildren were born in 1971 and 1977. She lost sister Abbie in 1975, brother Galer in 1977 and brother and sister Truett and Lillian in 1979. Minnie passed away in 1985.

Child of Minnie and Warren

224. Warren Ledford Kelly 1940 – Living

89. Truett Saylor Ledford 29 MAR 1908 • Hill, TX - 11 JAN 1979 • Hubbard, Hill, TX
Ruby Mae Baker 31 JAN 1911 • Rural, Navarro, TX - 16 FEB 1991 • Navarro, Texas



I haven't found a photo of Truett and the one of Ruby is from a newspaper article where she won a drawing for \$50.

Truett was the fourth surviving child of Hallie and Gayler and was born in Bynum, Hill County in 1908. By 1910, he lived at 609 Walnut St in a house that was owned and her father was a salesman in groceries. Three older sisters were in the household and his mother Hallie had lost a child in 1904. His father died in 1919 when he was 11.

The 1920 Census found 11-year-old Truett living with his widowed mother in a rented house on Pecan Street in Hubbard. He also had three older sisters and one younger sister, and one younger brother. I assume that Truett was going to school.

The 1930 Census found Truett as the big brother at home with his mom, a younger sister and brother, and a 50-year-old roomer named Minnie English. They lived at 300 Third St NE and Truett was a projectionist at the local movie theater. When he was 27 in 1935, he married Ruby Baker. Ruby had been born in Jan 1911 in Navarro County, so the families may have known one another before moving to Hill County. She appears to have been the oldest in her family. Records on FamilySearch document the wedding place and date.

In 1940, Truett was driving a truck for a construction company. He and Ruby owned a home worth \$1500 on an unnamed street in Hubbard. In October of 1940, he registered for the draft. He was 5'-11" and 165 lbs. He had gray eyes, blond hair, and a light complexion.

The 1950 Census found Truett farming again. He and Ruby had a daughter in 1941 and a son in 1945. They lived in the country on Pin Oak Road ½ mile on the right from the previous house. His youngest sister died in 1951 and his mother in 1957. His daughter Hilda was married in 1962 and produced a grandchild and then divorced and remarried in 1965 and had two more daughters in 1965 and 1968. Their son married in 1968 and had a daughter in 1978.

His sister Abbie died in 1975 and brother Galer in 1977. His two brothers-in-law who owned the service station had both died in the 60's so I am making an assumption that Truett took over the ownership of the station which proved to be a fatal mistake, because in Jan 1970, he was beaten to death with a hammer by a couple of robbers. They were arrested and tried and at least one was sentenced to death. His death sentence was overturned in 1981 by the Supreme Court.

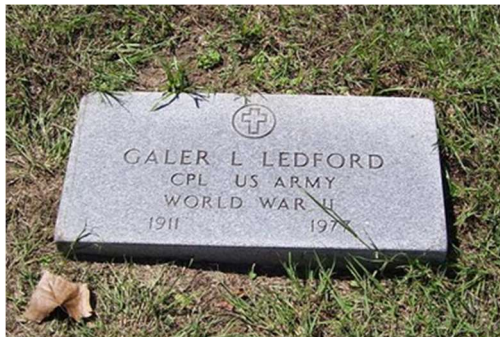
Ruby lived until 1991 and I have not found a lot of information about her 21 years as a widow. Unfortunately, her son died in 1985 for reasons that I have not been able to determine. Hopefully she got to spend quality time with her children and grandchildren.

Children of Truett and Ruby:

225. Hilda June Ledford 1941–2001

226. Truett Lee Ledford 1945–1985

90. Galer Lee Ledford 10 JUL 1911 • Bynum, TX - 29 MAR 1977 • Temple, Bell, TX
Ella Maye Norris 31 JUL 1910 • TX - 15 FEB 1958 • Hubbard, Hill, TX



I haven't found any photos of either Galer or Ella other than gravestones.

Galer was the fifth surviving child of Hallie and Gayler and was born in Bynum, Hill County in 1911. The 1920 Census found 8-year-old Galer living with his widowed mother in a rented house on Pecan Street in Hubbard. He also had three older sisters and one younger sister, and one older brother. I assume that Galer was going to school.

The 1930 Census found Galer as the younger brother at home with his mom, a younger sister and an older brother, and a 50-year-old roomer named Minnie English. They lived at 300 Third St NE and His older brother, Truett was a projectionist at the local movie theater.

The 1940 Census found 28-year-old Galer living at home with his 64-year-old widowed mother. He was working as a lineman for the telephone company. The census showed that he had completed high school. His mother owned the house and it was worth \$600. The address is not listed. In October of 1940, he registered for the draft which showed that he was 6'-1" and 180 lbs He had blue eyes, brown hair, a ruddy complexion and a "defective" left eye. His address was given simply as Hubbard and he said he was not employed. . On 21 Nov 1942, he went to Dallas and enlisted. That record indicated that he was a skilled motion picture projectionist and he was down to 172 lbs. His records indicated that he served from Dec 1942 to Dec 1945. From Fold3, it sounds like he was in the 3rd Infantry Division as a private. His gravestone shows that he ended up as a Corporal.

Here's a link to the history of the Division in WW2. [3rd Infantry Division \(United States\) - Wikipedia](#) It was a very distinguished Division that saw a lot of fighting in North Africa, Italy and continued working its way north. It participated in D-Day. Audy Murphy was in the Division.

Following the war, he met and married Ella Norris. I found a news article about their wedding on 1 June 1946. A son was born in Feb 1948 in Waco. Ella was another Navarro native that moved to Hill County before 1930. I haven't found her in the 1940 Census. The 1950 Census however found Galer, Ruth, and Galer Jr living at 191 S. Main on a farm in Hubbard.

Information after 1950 is scarce. His little sister Jessie died in 1951, his mother in 1957, and his wife in 1958. There is a City Directory showing a "Gaylor Ledford" working as a clerk for Southern Union Gas in 1961, but I don't know if this is him. Galer died in Temple Tx in 1977. I have not found an obituary.

Child of Galer and Ella:

227. Galer Lee Ledford Jr 1948–2022

91. Jessie Lois Ledford 13 AUG 1915 • Hubbard, Hill, TX - 24 APR 1951 • Waco, McLennan, TX
JB Green 10 AUG 1915 • Penelope, TX - 12 JAN 1953 • Waco, McLennan, TX



This photo of Jessie and JB was posted to Ancestry by Amanda Green in 2011. She does not have a public tree. I've sent her a message to try and find more information, but until then, here's what I have.

Jessie was the sixth and final surviving child of Hallie and Gayler. She was born in 1915 in Hubbard or perhaps Bynum. The 1920 Census found almost 5-year-old Jessie living with her widowed mother in a rented house on Pecan Street in Hubbard. He also had four older sisters and one older brother. I assume that Jessie had not started school.

The 1930 Census found 15-year-old Jessie as the youngest sister at home with her mom, an older sister, an older brother, and a 50-year-old roomer named Minnie English. They lived at 300 Third St NE and her

older brother, Truett, was a projectionist at the local movie theater.

I haven't found marriage records, but sometime before the 1940 Census, Jessie had married J. B. Green. He was a carpenter working in construction. They lived in a rented house and both had graduated from high school. J. B.'s draft registration in Oct 1940 showed that he was 6'-1 1/2 "and weighed 165 lbs. He had hazel eyes, brown hair, a ruddy complexion and a scar below his lower lip. Their address was given simply as Penelope, TX which is where J. B. was from. Penelope is a small community SE of Hillsboro. I have not found evidence of J. B. having served in WW2, but that does not mean that he did not. There were a lot of J.B. Green's on Fold3, but I could not definitively tie one to our J. B. In 1940, son Jerry was born and in 1942, daughter Nancy was born. We then had another late bloomer when daughter Beverly arrived in 1947.

The 1950 Census found the family lived at 151 N 10th Street in Waco. J.B. was then working as an electrician in the automobile industry. The entry said that his industry was the repair of automobiles. The children were 9, 7, and 2 so Jessie had her hands full with kids. Unfortunately, Jessie died in April 1951 of breast cancer. It appeared that J. B. married again in Dec 1951 to Lottie Blair. I have not found much information about her. Not long after that wedding, J. B. died in Jan 1953 of possible heart failure per his death certificate.

I'm sorry that I don't have more information about what happened next. The children would have been around 12, 10, and 5 when both parents had passed away. At this time, I don't know if Lottie adopted them and so far, an examination of the kids has not yielded any leads.

Children of Jessie and JB:

228. Jerry Wayne Green 1940–

229. Nancy Gayle Green 1942–2002

230. Beverly Ann Green 1947–2009

Gersham's third child was his daughter Mary Delle Bills (1877-1962) and her husband William Pitts Moore (1870–1954) and they had six offspring. These are their grandchildren.

92. Elbert Gersham Moore 21 FEB 1899 • Navarro, TX - 1 JULY 1900 • Navarro, TX



There's not much to share about Elbert. He was born in Feb 1899 as William and Mary's first child. He appeared in the 1900 Census with his mother and father who were farming in Navarro County. He died about a month after the Census.

93. William Paul Moore 23 NOV 1900 • Navarro, TX - 12 MAY 1982 • Corsicana, Navarro, TX
Maudie Foster 18 SEP 1905 • Navarro, TX - 24 DEC 1998 • Fayette, TX

I'm going to pursue my standard process in documenting Paul Moore, but I will embellish it based on a newspaper article from 1979 that goes into great detail about his fascinating life. I'm surprised that I've had such a challenge finding pictures of Paul and Maudie, but I have attached the photo below from that news article.

Paul was born in Nov 1900, too late for the 1900 Census, but when he was born, his parents lived on a farm in Navarro, and were mourning the loss of their first son Elbert only months before. By 1910, they were living at the same place and Paul had a younger sister and brother. There's not much in the record between 1910 and 1920. The 1920 Census indicated that they had moved to Hubbard and 19-year-old Paul was still at home on Hubbard and Irene Road along with his parents, two younger brothers and two younger sisters. There is a 6-year gap between Ben and Marzee and then another 5 between Marzee and Robert. I have not found any evidence of other children that may have died during those gaps. Paul was likely enrolled at the University of Texas around this time because the news article about his life indicated that he came to Corsicana in 1922 having worked on papers in Beaumont and Orange, and had been the editor of the Daily Texan at UT. He arrived in Corsicana on the way to a job interview for a grocery company when he visited an old friend at the Corsicana Sun, and while there, the editor offered him a job as the sports reporter. Thus began an illustrious career in journalism. His arrival in the city corresponded with the big oil boom in the town and it was an exciting time of growth. He took up residence at the local YMCA, where he met and fell in love with the secretary at the Y named Maudie Foster. It looks like Maude was a local

girl whose father was a carpenter. They got a marriage license in Mar 1924 and were married shortly thereafter. Daughter Marilyn was born in 1928. During the 20's, along with writing sports, Paul covered a number of spectacular stories that made national headlines such as an oil well fire that killed 22 drillers and a circus elephant named Black Diamond that turned on and killed its trainer. She was killed and her head is on display at the Houston Natural History Museum.



The 1930 Census found Paul, Maude and Marilyn living at 1201 W 14th in Corsicana. They owned the house and it was worth \$3000. Similarly, the 1940 Census had them living in the same house, but its value had decreased to \$2500. Paul was still a reporter. The Census indicated that his highest education was high school, but I believe that this is incorrect. Maudie also had completed high school; and Marilyn was in the 5th grade. Paul's exploits as a reporter continued along with his Civic activity. He organized a Dad's Club to support local teams, and joined the International Order of Odd Fellows. He and Maude were also active in the First Baptist Church. One of his big news stories was a tornado that hit the town of Frost and killed 22 and injured many others. He went to Frost and, on the way,

back from the scene, he was riding the train with multiple injured people and was hit by the inspiration that a better hospital was needed in Corsicana. He found himself appointed to the Hospital Board, and he led the fundraising drive that culminated with the building of the Navarro County Memorial Hospital in 1952. On the news front, Paul ended up being on the cutting edge of today's True Crime podcasts. He won a national contest when allowed him to have one of his stories dramatized on NBC's Big Story which I guess must have been a popular national radio program of the day. The story involved the brutal murder of a woman, and Paul worked with the sheriff to solve the case and suggested the tactic of withholding the suspect's cigarettes which led him to confess. Torture!

The 1950 Census found them living in the same home in Corsicana and Paul was the Sports Editor at the Corsicana Sun. Marilyn was still at home and was working as a secretary for an insurance company. She married Tim Patrick in 1951 and produced grandchildren for Paul and Maudie in 1954 and 1957. His father died in 1954. In 1957, he was promoted to Editor of the Sun and served until 1967. Shortly before his retirement, he was named the Man of the Year by the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

I haven't found a lot more about the Moore's, but I'm certain that they remained active in their community and with their family. Paul died in 1982 and Maudie in 1998.

Child of Paul and Maude:

231. Marilyn Moore 1928 – 2006

94. Jennie Mayme Moore 7 JAN 1903 • Emmett, Navarro, TX - 14 AUG 1965 • Corsicana, Navarro, TX



Mayme had a much less eventful life than her older brother by all accounts. Born in 1903, she appeared in the 1910 and 1920 Censuses at her parent's home in Navarro County. She led a scholarly life having graduated from Hubbard high school and she received a BA and MA from Baylor. She also studied at Texas A&M, Risk College, and North Texas State. She started her teaching career at Malone and then moved to Corsicana in 1927 where she taught for 38 years. From the yearbooks, it looks like she was a math teacher.

In the 1930 Census she was a boarder in the Jack Haslam home at 1228 W 5th Ave in Corsicana. Jack's son was a reporter and likely a friend of her brother who was also a reporter. There was also another teacher boarding in the same home.

The 1940 census again found her boarding at 648 W 6th Ave in the home of widowed Buena Halbert along with her 3 sons, daughter-in-law, granddaughter, as well as another lady that was a project superintendent for the WPA.

The 1950 Census found her rooming again at 651 W. Collins. She was in the home of the widowed Eva Houston and her daughter Milton who was a retail sales lady. Also living with them was Mabel Holland who was an elementary school teacher while Mayme was at the high school.

Browsing through Newspapers.com for Mayme Moore yields numerous stories of Mayme's activities as a teacher plus a lot of family visits. She took an extended trip to Washington DC in 1951, Her father died in 1954, and her mother died in 1962. Mayme died in 1965 that her older brother had helped build in Corsicana. Her death certificate seems to indicate that she died from some form of cancer. She was 62. She never married or had any children except for all of the students that she positively influenced.

95. Ben Harold Moore 24 OCT 1905 • Navarro, TX - 13 APRIL 1985 • Austin County, TX
Muriel Louise Marschner 22 OCT 1910 • Galveston, TX - 9 AUG 2000 • Harris, TX



The only photos I have found are Ben's grave marker and this poor shot of Muriel celebrating Mardi Gras in Galveston in 1922.

Ben was born in 1905, and by 1910, he was living in Navarro County and Ben had a younger sister and an older brother. There's not much in the record between 1910 and 1920. The 1920 Census indicated that they had moved to Hubbard and 14-year-old Ben was still at home on Hubbard and Irene Road along with his parents, an older and a younger brother and two younger sisters. There is a 6-year gap between Ben and Marzee and then another 5 between Marzee and Robert.

Between 1920 and 1930, Ben graduated from High School and College, but I cannot find any yearbooks where he attended. I base this on the 1940 Census which said that he had 4 years of college. In my earlier research notes, I had noted that Ben was a football star at Trinity in the 20's, but I can't seem to find the source. The 1930 Census found Ben in Houston. He was living at Lottie King's Boarding House

at 1614 Pierce Ave along with a bunch of other young men and one young lady. It was a diverse crowd with all manner of jobs. In 1935, he was issued a marriage license in Fort Bend County, but he and Muriel married in San Antonio. Muriel was a young lady with German parents. Her father was a soda water manufacturer in Galveston in 1920. By 1930, she was still living with her parents and was working as a stenographer at a telegraph company.

The 1940 Census found Ben, Muriel, and 3 young sons living at 2411 Nottingham in Houston. Ben was a claims adjuster for a fire insurance company. The 1940 Census confirmed that Muriel had graduated high school. Ben registered for the draft in 1940. His card confirms the home address and indicated that he was self-employed and his office was in the Cotton Exchange Building. He was 6'-3" and 200 lbs. He had gray eyes and black (but balding) hair and a ruddy complexion. I do not see any evidence that he was drafted. Perhaps having three young kids was a benefit.

The 1950 Census found them still living at 2411 Nottingham. Looking at the map, this is a pretty upscale address today in the vicinity of Rice University. Ben was the owner of a successful insurance agency. His oldest son Ben Jr was off at SMU in 1955 and married in 1959. Second son, Bill went to SMU in 1957 and apparently spent some time in the military before marrying in 1970. Son Robert married in 1961 and I haven't found where he went to school. Daughter Marsha Moore was at SMU in 1964. She married George Moody in Dec 1963. As an aside, George's father, Dan Moody had a sister named Audrey Moody. Audrey had a son named Robert Ley. While I was working for the YMCA as the VP Facilities, Robert was my point of contact on the YMCA Board of Directors. The Ley family are huge YMCA Supporters.

It looks like the Moore's had a family retreat in Austin County near Cat Springs. It's a pretty large piece of property and goes by the name of Missing Hammer Ranch. It includes a good-sized lake named Moore Lake.

I've gotten a little off track here and have been looking for a little input from cousins of the Moore's. From what I have read, it appears that the Moore Insurance agency was very successful. Upon Ben's death in 1985, his 2nd son Bill took over leadership of the firm and it appears that the firm was acquired by Dean and Draper in 2007.

Children of Ben and Muriel:

- 232. Ben Harold Moore Jr 1937–Living
- 233. William Carl Moore Sr 1938–Living
- 234. Robert Louise Moore 1939–Living
- 235. Marsha Muriel Moore 1943–Living

96. Marzee Moore 31 OCT 1911 • Emmett, Navarro, TX - 20 SEP 2000 • Huntsville, Walker, TX
William Reginald Carmichael 15 SEP 1906 • Panola, TX - 3 APR 1999 • Huntsville, Walker, TX

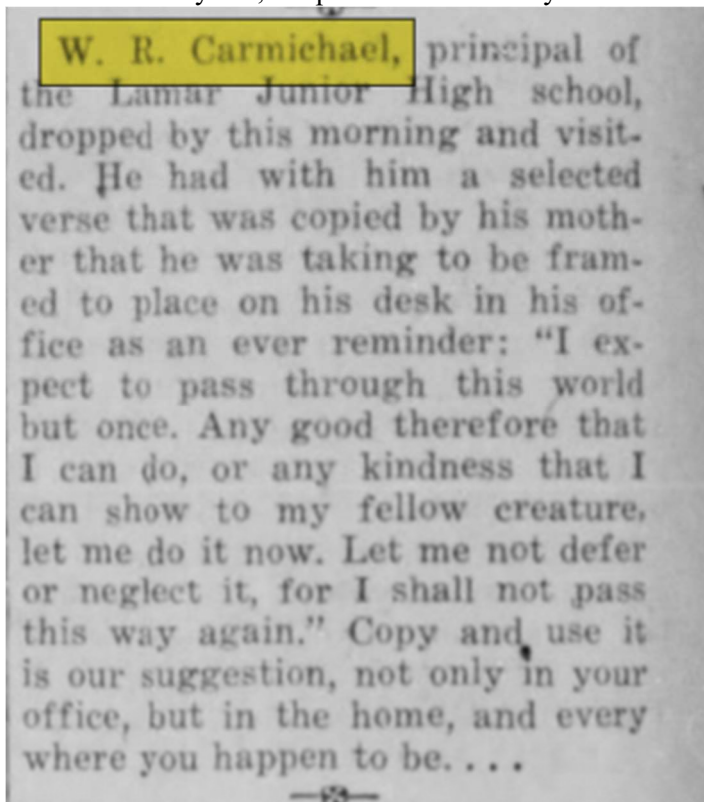


Marzee was born in 1911 six years after her next older brother Ben. The 1920 Census indicated that the family had moved to Hubbard and 8-year-old Marzee was at home on Hubbard and Irene Road along with her parents, two older brothers and one older sister and one younger brother. There is a 6-year gap between Ben and Marzee and then another 5 between Marzee and

younger brother Robert. There is a news article from 1928 describing Mayme, Marzee, and Buster visiting their brother Paul in Corsicana.

In the 1930 Census, all of Marzee's older siblings have moved out so it is just 18-year-old Marzee and her 12-year-old brother living at home on Matson Road in Hubbard. Her father is still farming. Another news article described a party that brother Paul held for Marzee on the 4th of July 1930. Another article from Sept 1930 indicated that Marzee was headed off to Trinity University. I don't recall if it was still in Waxahachie, or if it had moved to San Antonio at this point. Another news article indicated that she had transferred to Baylor in 1933. In 1934, Marzee and her mother visited her brother in Corsicana. In July 1934, Marzee had her tonsils removed. I'm not exactly sure when she graduated, but in 1935 she was teaching music in the Hubbard Public School. In November, she married W.R. Carmichael who at the time was a very successful football coach at Stephen F. Austin HS in Bryan. He had graduated from Texas A&M, and had completed most of his work toward a Master's Degree. In addition to coaching, he was also a teacher. They were married in Bryan where they attended the A&M -Texas game on Thanksgiving and then visited his parents in Clayton and her parents in Hubbard. She then returned to Hubbard to complete her teaching contract for the year.

W. R. looks to have had an interesting background. He was from a little east Texas town called Clayton where his father was a merchant. From articles of the day, his father's brother-in-law was also a merchant and the two men did not get along as W.R.'s father had accused the brother-in-law of stealing funds from the school. One thing led to another when one day, 10-year-old W.R. was playing in the street in front of his uncle's store when the uncle confronted him and told him to stop what he was doing. W.R.'s father saw what was going on and intervened whereupon the father was stabbed and killed. Further looking yielded the information that the murderer was the wife's brother OR Davis. He was convicted, sent to Huntsville for 5 years, but pardoned after one year.



W. R. Carmichael, principal of the Lamar Junior High school, dropped by this morning and visited. He had with him a selected verse that was copied by his mother that he was taking to be framed to place on his desk in his office as an ever reminder: "I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to my fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." Copy and use it is our suggestion, not only in your office, but in the home, and every where you happen to be. . . .

I haven't found him in the 1930 Census, but a news article indicated that he graduated from A&M in 1928 and was coaching basketball in the small town of Timpson near where he was from. He began his teaching career in Bryan in 1931 where he had been hired as the basketball coach and mathematics teacher. He apparently did very well as both a teacher and as a coach resulting in his being selected in 1937 as the principal of a new junior high. I was particularly struck by this article that I found in the 1938 Bryan Eagle. Hopefully it's legible, but seemed to describe his philosophy toward life.

While all of this was going on with WR, Marzee appeared in numerous articles detailing her activities with the Bryan Reading Club. She served as an officer and often entertained by playing her piano at meetings and club functions. In 1940, their son W.R. Jr was born. Marzee continued her activities and there are frequent mentions of trips she made to visit family in Corsicana,

Hubbard and Houston. She was involved in a Red Cross fund drive.

I have been unable to find the family in the 1940 Census, but based on the news articles, we know that they were very busy in school, church, and civic activities in Bryan. WR had been elected President of

the Texas Coaches Association, and in 1947, he was hired as the athletic director at Texas A&M. It's not quite the glamor job that we see today, but quite an achievement nonetheless. Also in 1940, W.R. like most young men of the day registered for the draft. He was 5'-11 1/2" and weighed 195 lbs. He had hazel eyes, blonde hair and a ruddy complexion. He wore glasses. He was apparently able to miss being drafted. Daughter Ruth was born in 1949 which was about the time that he resigned from A&M to accept the position of Superintendent of the Bryan School District.

The 1950 Census found Marzee and WR living at 2200 College Ave with 10-year-old WR Jr and newly born Ruth. WR was the Superintendent. The census also confirmed that Marzee was a college graduate. I'm not sure when Marzee started researching genealogy, but I've seen several documents on Ancestry with her name and in a conversation with daughter Ruth, she confirmed that her mother was all about family.

WR continued as Superintendent for 12 years at which time he resigned in 1961 and elected to move to Huntsville and become a professor at Sam Houston State University. In 1963, he was elected President of the Texas State Teachers Association. Some unknown year, Marzee went back to teaching high school mathematics at Huntsville HS. See this website for a tribute about WR and his achievements that I haven't already chronicled. https://www.shsu.edu/~pin_www/T@S/1999/Carmichael.html

I haven't researched deeply, but their son was a graduate of Annapolis in 1963 and spent some time in the Navy. He had a military wedding in Florida in 1964. He and his wife Lavinia had two children. Daughter Ruth married in 1974 and she and her husband Warren also had two children. WR died in 1999 in Huntsville at the age of 92 and Marzee died the following year at the age of 88. On her gravestone, it says "Teacher".

Just a little aside - In 1990, when I was working as the Construction Manager for Compaq Computer, I hired a well-known construction company called Bellows Construction and worked with them for about 3 years. I was fortunate to meet the son of the founder, Warren Bellows II, but I dealt mainly with his son Tom. Ruth's husband was Warren Bellows III and chose to be a doctor while Ruth was the head of the English Department at the prestigious St John's Academy in Houston for many years. I'm sure she has much to add about her wonderful parents.

Children of Marzee and WR:

236. William Reginald Carmichael Jr 1940–Living??

237. Ruth Moore Carmichael 1949–Living

97. Robert Bryan Moore 18 NOV 1916 • Hill, TX - 3 APR 2006 • Pasadena, Harris, TX

Betty Jo Ellett 1 AUG 1920 • Powell, Navarro, TX - 19 SEP 2010 • Sugar Land, Fort Bend, TX



Here are a couple of photos of Buster and Betty Jo. I have some others that their daughter Rebecca sent me which I will include later in this narrative. I'll attempt to incorporate Rebecca's biography into my narrative.

Buster was the last child of WP and Mary Dell Moore. He was born in 1916 right in the middle of WW1 in Frost Texas. All his older siblings were still at home when he was born and they were anywhere from 5 to 16 years older. This is reflected in the 1920 census when they are all still at home. In the 1930 Census, all of the children except Marzee have moved on. I haven't found school records for him, but the 1940 Census indicated that he had completed two years of college. It also indicated that in 1935 he had lived in Waxahachie, so according to Rebecca, he received an athletic scholarship to Trinity University in that City and graduated in 1938. I'm not sure why the census indicated that he only had two years. Anyway, Rebecca says that after graduation, he worked for a short time at the Navarro County Courthouse where he

met Betty Jo and in Mar 1940, they got married at her parent's home in Corsicana. According to the newspaper, Buster had already moved to Galveston and the 1940 Census said that he was a timekeeper on the dry docks. From Rebecca Fuller's report, we know that he had gone to work for Todd Shipyard. Rebecca said that he landed the job through his older brother Ben who had connections at the shipyard. Maybe he was their insurance broker as that seemed to have been his business. His draft card registration in Oct 1940 showed that they lived at 801 I Street in Galveston. He was 5'-10" - 165 lbs. with gray eyes, brown hair, a sallow complexion, and a mole on his chin.

Rebecca shared that Betty Jo was born in Corsicana where her father, James Isaac Ellet was a postal carrier, and her mother Ethel Alberta Ware was a homemaker and seamstress on the side. She graduated from Corsicana HS, but her parents could not afford to send her to college so she went to work at the courthouse.

In 1943, daughter Rebecca was born and in 1947, son Paul was born. Rebecca said that they lived in Galveston until 1950 at which time Buster was promoted to the Houston office of Todd Shipyard and worked there until his retirement. He was the treasurer of the company when he retired. The 1950 Census found the family living at 4327 Ave L in Galveston before their move to Pasadena later that year. In Pasadena in 1952 daughter Janet was born in 1952, and son Robert in 1953. According to Rebecca, Buster and Betty were very active at the Sunset Methodist Church in Pasadena and were some of its earliest members. They were avid bridge players, and Buster later took up deer hunting. He was an active member of the Pasadena Rotary Club, one of the best Rotary Clubs in Houston. Betty worked part time at a dermatologist when the kids were older, and kept up her sewing skills to the extent that she even made wedding dresses for her daughters.



Robert's father died in 1964 and his mother in 1962. Daughter Rebecca married in 1966 and grandchildren started arriving in 1971. I haven't found any marriage records on brother Paul but he had a wife named Ginni. Sister Janet married in 1971. She may have had children earlier, but my

records show a son in 1988. Finally, youngest son James married in 1984 and had a daughter in 1988 and a son in 1993 so Buster and Betty had plenty of grandchildren to keep them busy. Robert died 2006, and Betty died in 2010.

Children of Buster and Betty:

- 238. Rebecca Ann Moore 1943–Living
- 239. Paul Bryan Moore 1947–Living
- 240. Janet Sue Moore 1952–Living
- 241 James Robert Moore 1953–2019

Gersham's fourth child was his daughter Bethania Eudora "Tennie" Bills (1877-1962) and her husband Edward Moore (1876-1960) and they had five offspring. These are their grandchildren.

- 98. Luna Mary Moore 8 FEB 1903 • Floyd, TX - 22 SEP 1984 • Grayson County, TX
- Luther Alfred Grimes 6 JAN 1904 Montague, TX - 10 FEB 1988 • Grayson County, TX



I haven't found a picture of Luther, but here is a picture on Luna.

Luna was born in Floyd TX which is a small community NE of Dallas where her father was a stock farmer. She showed up in the 1910 Census in Floyd with her parents and younger brother and sister Vernon and Alice.

By 1920, the family had moved to Denton County and were farming off of Mustang Road near Pilot Point. The family had grown to 5 children. Based on a news article, it appears that Luna attended teachers' college. I found her yearbook at North Texas State Teachers College in Denton. Apparently shortly after graduation, she married Luther Grimes. He was born in 1904 probably in Montague, TX which is NW of Dallas and was still there in 1920 working on his father's farm. I'm not sure when and how Luna and Luther met, nor where they were married, but in 1927, their first son, Luther Jr was born in Bellville NM. For some

reason their 2nd son Dwight was born in Texas, but they were still living in New Mexico. Her parents came to visit in 1928.

The 1930 Census found them living in Belleville NM where Luther was working as a grain farmer. It's unclear if he had his own farm at this time. They were living in a rented home, but the address is not given. Apparently, Luna started teaching in Bellville in the 1930-31 school year based on a news article I found. According to the 1930 Census, Luther had not served in WW1.

The 1940 Census showed that the family had moved back to Bluegrove TX which is a small-town SE of Wichita Falls. It shows that they had been there since at least 1935. Luther was still farming on a rented property. I believe that he was a dairy farmer. The census showed that he had only completed 5th grade, while Luna had 3 years of college. The boys were in 5th and 6th grade. For some reason Luna was not shown as teaching. I haven't found a WW2 registration for Luther, but both sons registered. They were living in Sherman TX when they registered in 1946.

Luna's mother died in 1940 and in 1941, she received 138 acres from her father. He passed away in 1960. Somewhere in the early 60's, it looks like they moved to Pottsboro TX which is a small town near Denison north of Dallas. The Pottsboro yearbooks showed she was teaching from at least 1966 to 1971. She received special recognition in the 1969 Yearbook for her dedicated service. It indicated that she had been a teacher for 38 years including the last 24 in Pottsboro. Luna died in 1984 and Luther died in 1988. Their sons both married and it looks like they had at least 5 grandchildren. I ran across this quote from an article about Pottsboro. "L.A. and Luna Grimes lived out in the country; he was a dairy farmer. Mr. Grimes was always friendly and Mrs. Grimes had the most wonderful smile."

Children of Luna and Luther"

242. Luther Alfred Grimes Jr.1927–2010

243. Eldwin Dwight Grimes 1928–2016

99. Vernon Edward Moore 6 SEP 1904 • Emmett, TX - 25 MAY 1973 • San Antonio, Bexar, TX
Emily Mae Carmichael 14 AUG 1904 • Henrietta, Clay, TX - 17 MAY 1990 • Karnes, Texas



I think that this is Vernon Moore at Howard Payne in 1925. The shot of Emily is later when she was a teacher.

Vernon was born in Floyd TX which is a small community NE of Dallas where his father was a stock farmer. He showed up in the 1910 Census in Floyd with his parents and older and younger sisters Luna and Alice.

By 1920, the family had moved to Denton County and were farming off of Mustang Road near Pilot Point. The family had grown to 5 children with the addition of two younger brothers, Gary and Randall. It seemed like

Vernon headed off to school at Howard Payne University in Brownwood. I believe that he graduated in 1925, and in 1926 he married Emily Carmichael. She was from Henrietta Texas. Note: The 1920 Census is messed up. The enumerator seems to have gotten pages out of order so it appears that some of the children have a new father and mother in 1920, and that her father has a bunch of German kids.

The 1930 Census found Vernon and Emily living in Henrietta TX and both were teachers. They were both 25, and lived in a rented house paying \$10/mo. rent. Their son Robert was born in 1936 in Jefferson County TX which is where Beaumont is located.

The 1940 Census found them living in Orange County. On Vernon's draft registration card in 1942, they lived in Vidor. Vernon was teaching at Vidor Rural HS, but Emily with a new baby was not. Vernon was 37, 6'-0" and 218 lbs. He had gray eyes, blonde hair, a light complexion and a scar on two fingers of his left hand. The census indicated that Vernon had 5 years of college and Emily had 4.

The 1950 Census found the family living in Luling Texas. Vernon was apparently teaching other teachers how to teach agricultural courses, and Emily was back to teaching Social Studies. Thirteen-year-old Robert had completed 7th grade.

I found a news article from 1967 describing a visit back to Henrietta for the Clay County Pioneer Association Reunion. The article described how they both taught in Halsell and Bluegrove in the 1930s and even taught in a one room schoolhouse on the Cartwright Ranch (Emily's home). Vernon had been the principal at Halsell for 5 years. Lake Arrowhead had been recently built which was causing the site of the former school to be submerged. At the time of the article, they were still teaching in Luling.

Sometime after 1967, they moved to Karnes City in south Texas. His death certificate in 1973 showed that they lived at 408 W. Southline and that he was a retired public-school teacher. He died of colon cancer in San Antonio. Emily died in 1990 in Karnes City at the age of 85. In her obituary, it indicated that she was survived by her son and a granddaughter as well as a brother. At this point, I have not located Robert's wife or daughter.

Child of Vernon and Emily:

244. Robert Edward Moore 1936 - Living?

100. Alice Moore 24 MAY 1909 • Floyd County, TX - 22 JUN 1993 • Grayson, TX
Fred Edgar Sharp 27 DEC 1909 • Pike, TX - 26 FEB 1995 • Collins County, TX



Alice's photo from North Texas in 1929. Haven't found a photo of Fred. I did come across this bit of history as told by Alice's aunt Leota Bills Moore which I found interesting. This would indicate that the three older kids in her family (including her) were born in Floyd, but then the last two boys were born in Mustang.

History of Mustang - As told by Mrs. I. L. Moore

G. Ed Moore and I. L. (Curg) Moore of Frost, Navarro County, Texas are first double cousins who married sisters, Tennie, and Leota Bills. They first turned their thoughts toward North Texas in the summer of 1912. Their first trip into this county and the Mustang neighborhood was made with a real estate dealer from Corsicana, Texas. They came by automobile and were looking for locations for farm homes. Both of them were optimistic over this particular community and its surroundings. Ed bought the farm that year, then owned and occupied by a practicing physician, the late Dr. T. M. Harris. Ed moved here the following Jan. 1st, 1913, with his wife and three children, Luna, now Mrs. L. A. Grimes, Vernon E., and Alice, now Mrs. Fred Sharp. Two other sons were born since moving to Mustang. They are Gary A. and Randell L. Moore. In 1947 Ed moved to Pilot Point but still owns this farm.

Curg Moore waited until three years later, 1915, when he made another trip to this community and bought the H. T. Austin farm, but did not move to it until October 1, 1917 with his wife and one small daughter, Ruby Fae, now Mrs. Carl L. Perkins.

Both families came here by railroad. Each family having chartered a car and moving all their possessions "that not being too great amount", but it did consist of teams, tools, chickens, household effects and "what have you".

Alice was born in Floyd TX in 1909 which is a small community NE of Dallas where her father was a stock farmer. She showed up in the 1910 Census in Floyd with her parents and an older sister Luna and older brother Vernon. From the account above, when she was 4, they moved to Mustang.

By 1920, the family lived in Mustang and were farming off of Mustang Road near Pilot Point. The family had grown to 5 children with the addition of two younger brothers, Gary and Randall. Alice apparently went off to college at North Texas Teachers College in nearby Denton.

On Jan 1 1931, Alice married Fred Sharp. Fred had been born in Pike County and grew up there working on his father's farm. He also apparently went away to college for a couple of years, but I haven't determined where he studied. At some point after 1935, they moved from Collin County to Amarillo.

The 1940 Census found Fred and Alice living at 219 N. Buchanan in Amarillo and Fred was working as a truck driver and Alice did not list an occupation. The census confirmed that both had 2 years of college. Later in the year, Fred registered for the draft and on that form, it indicated that they lived at 310 N. Fillmore and Fred worked for Mr. T.L. Leachman at M & L Storage and Transfer located at 3rd and Arthur. Fred was 5'-11" - 165 lbs. with blue eyes, brown hair, a ruddy complexion and scar on his right elbow. Alice's mother Tennie died in 1940. Daughter Sandra was born in 1941 and Elizabeth in 1944. I haven't found definitive records of WW2 military Service, but there was a Fred Edgar Sharp at Pearl Harbor naval ammo depot in Jan 1946. In 1948, there was a tragic fire at the Phillips Petroleum Warehouse at 1119 East 2nd, which was near Fred's Company Glazed Wholesale Drug Company. Spotting the fire, Fred rushed over to help with the wounded and dying. The article indicated that Fred now lived at 1013 Blue Bonnet.

The 1950 Census found them in yet another house at 1324th 8th Street. Fred was a shipping clerk for what was probably Glazer Wholesale Drugs. Eight-year-old Sandra had completed 2nd grade and I suppose 5-year-old Elizabeth was getting ready to start school. It looks like both daughters got married in

1966 and at least grandchildren were born before Fred and Alice died in 1995 and 1993. I have not found a lot more about them post 1950.

Children of Fred and Alice:

245. Sandra Sue Sharp 1941–2012

246 Elizabeth Ann Sharp 1944–Living

101. Gary Autry Moore 27 OCT 1913 • Mustang, Denton, TX - 17 DEC 1979 • Denton, Denton, TX
Era Gaynell Cravens 2 MAY 1916 • Grayson County, TX - 25 AUG 2001 • Mustang, Denton, TX



Nelle is shown here.
I haven't found a photo of Gary.

Gary was born in Mustang shortly after the family's arrival to the community. He had three older siblings when he was born in 1913. He first

appeared in 1920 Census by which time his younger brother Randall had also arrived and they were living on the family farm in Mustang.

By the time of the 1930 Census, older siblings Luna and Vernon had moved on so it was just his older sister Alice and younger brother Randall. I would assume that the kids were all in school and doing farm chores. Marriage records have not been found, but based upon the date of their daughter's birth in 1934, I would deduce that Gary and Era got married in late 1933. Era was from Grayson County which was a bit further north and her father was a blacksmith. I'm uncertain how they would have met. Gary graduated high school approximately 1921 and Era was 3 years younger and only completed 3 years of high school. As I mentioned, Peggy was born in 1934, and Gary Jr arrived in 1938.

The 1940 Census showed that they were living in rural Denton County and farming. As with all of the other young men of the time, Gary registered for the draft in 1940. This showed them living at a rural address near Pilot Point. Gary was 5'-7" - 150 lbs., with blue eyes, blond hair, and a ruddy complexion. Likewise, the 1950 Census found them at the same place with the addition of a new daughter Marjorie in 1944. About the only news items that I found after 1950 deal with son Gary Jr's participation in high school sports and doing very well. Daughter Peggy got married in 1953 and had three kids throughout the 50's and early 60's. Gary Jr married in 1961 and does not appear to have had children. Daughter Marjorie married and divorced in the 60's and then married again in early 70's and had a daughter. His mother died in 1940 and his father in 1960. He was featured in a news article in 1962 about land improvements he was undertaking on his farm. His older brother died in 1973, and then tragically in 1979, Gary was thrown from a horse and kicked resulting in his death. Era lived until 2001.

At this time, I am not planning on delving deeply into the next generation, but I do want to give a shout out to son Gary Jr. After excelling as an athlete while growing up, Gary went on to become a high school football coach and at the time of his retirement, he had the record for the most wins ever for a Texas HS Football coach. There were numerous articles about him, a big write up in Texas Monthly, and even a book about him. Kind looks like a coach, doesn't he?



[https://www.tshof.org/store/p237/G.A. Moore Jr..html](https://www.tshof.org/store/p237/G.A._Moore_Jr..html)

Above is a typical article you can find about him on the web.

Children of Gary and Era:

247. Peggy Ann Moore 1934–Living

248. Gary A Moore Jr 1938–Living

249. Marjorie Gaynell Moore 1944–Living

102. Randall Lee Moore 6 JUN 1917 • Pilot Point, TX - 25 SEP 1993 • Denton, Tx
Bonnie Mae Perkins 15 MAY 1916 • Denton County, TX - 26 MAY 2013 • Celina, TX



The only picture I have been able to dig up on Randall is from a newspaper article and I haven't found one for Bonnie. I'll have to settle for the gravestone at this time.

Randall was the last child of George and Tennie.

He was born in Mustang in 1917, four years after his next older sibling Gary and one of two born in Mustang. All of the kids were still at home when he was born. By 1930, Luna and Vernon had moved out leaving 12-year-old Randall at home with Alice and Gary.

In June of 1939, Randall married Bonnie Perkins. At some point, before the wedding, Randall had graduated high school and attended college for a year. Bonnie was from a little further north near Celina and she also had graduated from high school but did not go to college. She was about a year older than Randall. The 1940 Census found them living in Rural Denton County in a rented farmhouse. His draft registration indicated that they lived near Pilot Point, so he was close to home. He was 5'-11" - 185 lbs. with blue eyes, brown hair and a dark complexion. In 1941 daughter Marilyn was born and in 1945, son Jerry was born. For some reason, Jerry was born in Collin County instead of Denton.

The 1950 census showed that they were living at the same place. Marilyn had completed 3rd grade and Jerry had not yet started school being only 5. In Sep 1949, there was a very complimentary article about Randall's food farming practices related to soil conservation. He was raising cotton and hogs. It stated that their farm had been a part of the old Light Brothers Ranch near Pilot Point.

Daughter Marilyn married in 1960 and had a child in 1966. Son Jerry married in 1968. It looks like he had three children, but I haven't found details on them. I haven't found a whole lot more about them. Randall died in 1993, and Bonnie died in 2013. They were buried in Celina.

A little bonus here about son Jerry and his wife Linda. While his cousin Gary was doing great things as the football coach in Celina, Jerry and Linda were very busy working in the Celina School District. They must have done well, because in 2022, the Jerry and Linda Moore Middle School was dedicated.



Children of Randall and Bonnie: 250. Marilyn Marie Moore 1941–Living
 251. Jerry Lynn Moore 1945–Living

Gersham’s fifth and sixth children were his sons Willie Floyd Bills (1881-1881) and Robert J Bills (1883–1884) and they obviously had no children.

Gersham’s seventh child was his son Gersham Autry Bills (1884-1950) and his wife Mary K. Fields (1885–1971) and they had no children.

Gersham’s eighth child was his son John Rush Bills (1887-1952) and his wife Clementine Agnes Cook (1890–1970) and they had seven children. This is my grandfather and grandmother and their children are my aunts, uncles, and parents.



Rush and Clemmie Bills

As a starter to Rush and Clemmie’s family, I include this dedication to Young County Men and Women who served in WW2, and 5 of 7 of their children are included.

BILLS, JACK AUTREY

AETM 8/c Jack Autry Bills, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Bills, Loving. Entered Navy, 1944, trained at Great Lakes, Ill., Hugh Manley School, Chicago, Ill., Gulfport, Miss. Served in USA.



LIGON, DOROTHY BILLS

USNCC Dorothy Bills Ligon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Bills, Loving. Entered Cadet Corps at Harris Hosp., 1943, graduated at Harris Mem. Meth. Hosp., Ft. Worth, 1946.

BILLS, PAT W.

Pfc. Pat W. Bills, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Bills, Loving, husband of Nelda Rice, Loving. Entered Army, 1946, trained at Camp Fannin, Texas, Ft. Robinson, Nebr. Served in 4th Div., Camp Butner, N.C. Awarded GCM. Discharged in 1946.



BILLS, DONALD DEAN

RDM 3/c Donald Dean Bills, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Bills, Loving, husband of Dorothy Lee Hughes, Channing. Entered Navy, 1943, trained in San Diego, Norfolk, Va., Long Beach, Long Island and San Pedro. Served in Okinawa. Awarded APO, ATO, Victory and Battle Stars. Discharged in 1946.

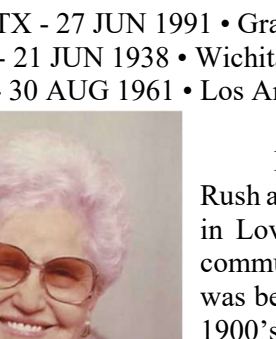


BILLS, JAMES R., JR.

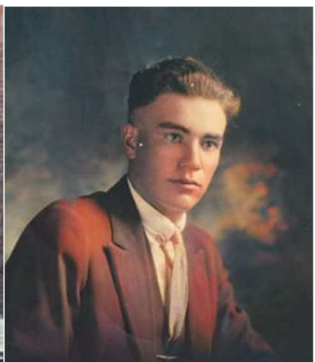
SK 1/c James R. Bills, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Bills, Loving, husband of Imogene A. Huber, Jermyn, Tex. Entered Navy, 1942, trained at NCTC, Williamsburg, Va., NAS, NAGS, Jacksonville, Fla. and Santa Rosa, Cal. Served aboard USS Curtis, S. Pacific, China Sea and Okinawa. Awarded ATO, APO and 1 Battle Star. Discharged in 1945.

BIRDWELL, JOE B.

S/Sgt. Joe B. Birdwell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Birdwell, Graham. Entered AAF, 1942, trained at Yakima, Wash. and Perry Inst. Served in England, France and Germany. Awarded GCM, Pres. Cit., Victory Ribbon, EAME Ribbon, 6 Battle Stars. Discharged in 1945.



103. Leota Pansy Bills 25 APR 1909 • Loving, Young, TX - 27 JUN 1991 • Graham, Young, TX
Floyd Merle Burdick 2 AUG 1905 • Kansas, USA - 21 JUN 1938 • Wichita Falls, Wichita, TX
Burl Lester Miller 03 DEC 1895 • Missouri, USA - 30 AUG 1961 • Los Angeles County, CA

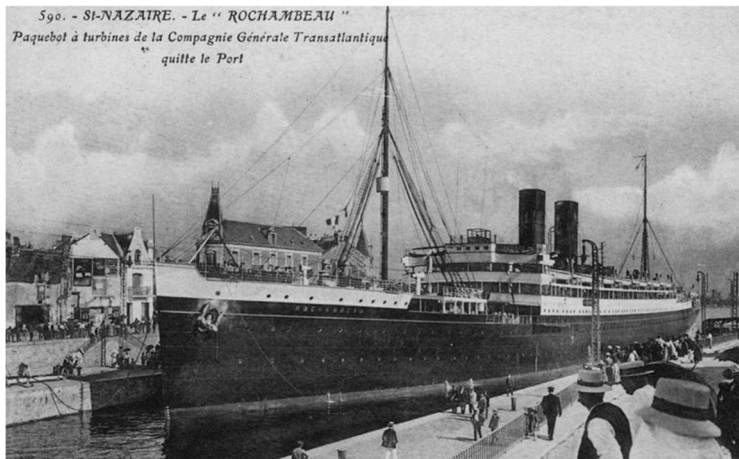


Leota was the first child of Rush and Clemmie. She was born in Loving TX which is a small community north of Graham. It was being developed in the early 1900's after a rail line was run through the area. Like most others in his family, Rush was farming and he and Clemmie had recently married and moved to

Loving. The 1920 Census showed that two more children had been born in 1913 and 1919, those being James Rush and Pat. Their farm was at Graham and Gertrude Road outside of Loving. In 1925, she had twin brother and sister Donald and Dorothy join the family and in 1926, my father Jack arrived on the scene.

Leota must have thought that it was getting too crowded so in 1928, she married Floyd Burdick who appeared to be a handsome young fellow. He was raised on a nearby farm and in the 1930 Census, Floyd and Leota were still living in Young County and Floyd listed his occupation as a partner in a sheep ranch. Floyd got into the drilling business in the 30's. The 1940 Census showed that they were living in Winkler County in 1935. This is out west of Odessa. Floyd was tragically killed in a drilling accident when he was crushed by falling equipment in 1938 when they lived at Iowa Park near Wichita Falls. Leota was left as a 29-year-old widow.

The 1940 Census found Leota living in Sweetwater TX. She was a boarder in the home of an elderly couple who had migrated from Russia. She and another young lady were working as waitresses at a local cafe. Details are sketchy about what she did after this, but in 1942, she married a fellow named J. W. Jackson from Shelby County. Not much information has turned up about him apart from their marriage record. It apparently did not last since 1945 found her out in California getting married to "Red" Miller. The marriage record lists her as Leota Jackson. Red was about 14 years older and had previously been married in 1919 after serving in WW1. He had served in the 26th Regiment of the Corp of Engineers as a mechanic and sailed for France in March 1918 on the SS Rochambeau. He was originally from Missouri which is where he got married the first time, but soon after moved to California and had two children. He lived in the Bakersfield area. His first marriage did not end well and he got a divorce in 1942. By this time, his kids were pretty well grown, so when he and Leota got married, they weren't in the picture. Even though he was a veteran of WW1, he still had to register for WW2. Red was 46 - 5' - 7 3/4 " - and 165 lbs. and a ruddy complexion. He was missing part of a finger.



The 1950 Census found Red and Leota living at 17412 Gathard in Huntington Beach CA. Red was 57 and Leota was 40. He was working as a pumper in the oilfield. Leota's father died in 1952 and Red died in 1961 and her mother died in 1970. I'm not sure when Leota moved back to Texas, but I do know that in 1986, she was back in Graham. I had never met Aunt Leota until I happened to be in California in 1969, and took the opportunity to look her up. I believe that she was living in Huntington Beach. Since she was 18

years older than my father and I had always heard her referred to as Aunt Leota, I assumed that she was my father's aunt. I ended up spending the night with her and at breakfast, I asked "Just what relationship are you to my dad?" She just laughed and told me she was his big sister. I was rather embarrassed! In reading her obituary, it indicated that she claimed Red's daughter Beulah as her stepdaughter and also two grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. I never heard of any of these folks. Leota died in 1991 in Graham.

Stepchildren of Red and Leota: John Roy Miller 1922-???
Beulah Abigail Miller 1923-2019

104. James Rush Bills 27 MAY 1913 • Loving, Young, TX - 22 JUN 1984 • Jacksboro, Jack, TX
Imogene Anne Huber 26 JAN 1915 • Antelope, Jack, TX - 16 DEC 1996 • Graham, Young, TX



JR was the 2nd child of Rush and Clemmie arriving on the scene in 1913 and joining older sister Leota on the Bills farm in Loving as shown in the 1920 Census. Before the next census in 1930, the family had grown with the addition of brothers Pat, Donald, and Jack and sister Dorothy. By this time, his maternal grandfather JA Cook had moved in with them following the death of his wife.

The final family member, Mary Glynn was born in 1931. In 1935, JR married Imogene who was a young lady from nearby Jack County. The 1940 census showed that JR had graduated from high school and Imogene had completed her sophomore year. They lived at 710 Indiana Street in Graham and JR was a bookkeeper at a local lumber company. The census said that they owned the home and it was worth \$1250. JR registered for the draft in 1940 and that form confirms his address. It showed that he was 5' - 7" - 132 lbs. with blue eyes, brown hair, and a light complexion. JR joined the Navy and his term of service was Enlistment Date 9 Dec 1942 - Discharge Date 11 Oct 1945. Records on Fold3 showed that he was serving at some point on the USS Curtiss which was a seaplane tender. Its service is shown here. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Curtiss_\(AV-4\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Curtiss_(AV-4))



The Curtiss was at Pearl Harbor and had significant damage and later in 1945 when JR was likely aboard, it was hit by a kamikaze which killed 35 and wounded 21. Reading her record, it sounds like she was involved in supporting all of the big Pacifica battles. I have not heard any personal accounts about JR's service, but he did survive and returned to Texas in late 1945. While he was away, his son Jimmy was born in 1943. For some reason, my notes say that he was born in Virginia, so perhaps Imogene followed him to his training base.

The 1950 census found JR, Imogene and Jimmy living at 808 NW 5th St in Andrews Texas, Jr was the manager of a lumber yard. He must have gone to college after the war as the 1950 census showed that he then had two years of college. It also indicated that he had earned \$4800 in 1949. For some reason, JR often lists himself as a junior, but his father was John Rush, so that's a little confusing. I have found many news articles about JR from his time in Andrews. I believe that he owned a hardware store and was very involved in Civic affairs. He was in the Lions Club and Junior Achievement. He was a City Councilman for quite a while. During his tenure there was an embezzlement scandal at the City and JR had to testify against the lady. I read that she had two mistrials and was never convicted.

Sometime during the mid-50's we visited JR, Imogene, and Jimmy in Andrews. That is the only time that I ever met him. I only have vague memories as I was probably only 5 or 6 and we were on a vacation from Venezuela. Jimmy was 8 years older than me and I recall briefly meeting him, but he wasn't

too interested in hanging out with a 6-year-old cousin! At some point which I have not determined, they moved to Jacksboro where I believe Imogene's family was from. His father died in 1952 and his mother died in 1970. His son JR Jr, married in 1963. At some point, he ended up in Houston, and I'm ashamed to say that I never did get together with him. Amazingly, one of his granddaughters happened to be in a YMCA group that my daughter in law was leading one summer. I think that he had already died at the time of that encounter. I've tried to make contact with his widow, but have not been successful. I have made contact with one of his sons, Randy Bills.

JR died in Jacksboro in 1984 and Imogene died in Graham in 1996. I'm not sure what took her to Graham as I am not aware of any relatives that may have been living in that area except perhaps JR's younger sister Dorothy.

Child of JR and Jean:

252. James Rush Bills Jr 1943–2008

105. Pat Wendell Bills 13 NOV 1918 • Loving Young, TX - 19 DEC 2003 • Snyder, Scurry County, TX
Mary Nelda Rice 1 AUGUST 1921 • TX - 8 MARCH 1995 • Snyder, Scurry County, TX



Pat was born in 1918 just at the end of WW1. He was the third child and 2nd son of Rush and Clemmie. When he was born, there was a pretty good gap between him and Jr. I don't know if Clemmie had lost a child between 1913 and 1918. In 1920, they lived on their farm in Loving. Again, after a 7-year gap, twins Dorothy and Donald

were born in 1925, followed by Jack in 1926. In the 1930 census, they were still on the farm in Loving and Leota had married and moved out. His final sister Dorothy was born in 1931. Pat married Nelda in 1938 in Loving. At the time of their wedding, Pat worked for Crawford Filling Station in Graham. In 1938, daughter Sonya was born. Nelda was the daughter of Jesse James Rice and Eva Hamm. They also farmed in Young County. Her father died a couple of years before she married Pat.

The 1940 Census found 21-year-old Pat and 18-year-old Nelda living in a rented house at 813 Virginia in Graham. Pat was a truck driver for an oil company. Like all the young men of the era, Pat registered for the draft in 1940. At that time, they had moved to 1002 3rd Street in Graham. His employer was listed as Jack Bettis. There is no indication of the type of work he was doing. Strangely, his birthday is shown as 1919 rather than 1918. Every other record show 1918, so I guess this was just a typo. Pat was 5'-11" - 165 lbs. with blue eyes, brown hair, and a light complexion. Before he headed out to war, his 2nd daughter Patsy was born in 1942. Uncle Pat told me one time that he spent the war training dogs in Kansas I believe. Anyway, I recently connected with his grandson Jim and Jim had this wonderful picture of Uncle Pat and his dog buddies. That's Pat standing in the center. The 1940 census also indicated that both Pat and Nelda had completed 2 years of high school.



The 1950 Census found the family living on Ave H in Cisco Tx. Cisco is west of Ft Worth about halfway to Abilene. Pat was an assistant maintenance supervisor at a gasoline plane. They had a 20-year-old lodger living with them who sold steel. Sonya married about 1954. I haven't found wedding records, so I base this on the birth of their son in 1955. Patsy followed in 1959, and she started her family later that year. Pat's father died in 1952. I haven't pinpointed the date, but at some point, Pat and Nelda moved to Snyder where Pat worked for Monsanto for many years. I remember visiting Uncle Pat and Aunt Nelda in Snyder sometime in the late 50's. Nelda was very active in genealogy as well as local history. There are several news articles about her work at the Scurry County Museum. Grandson Jim has provided me access to the Watson Family Photo History that is chock full of photos, old movies, and genealogical reports. Here is a 2012 family photo of Pat and Nelda's extended family.



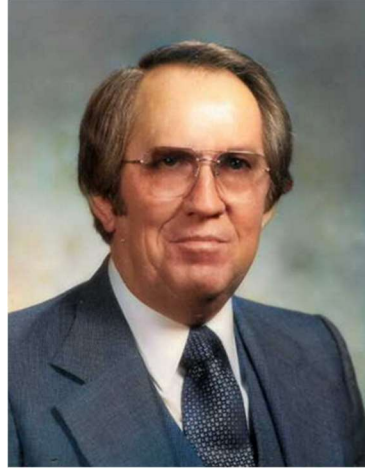
Nelda died in 1995 in Snyder, and Pat died in 2003 also in Snyder. Another aside: In 2014, I was doing some real estate in Lafayette and was able to reconnect with Sonya and Orville. Sonya was my oldest cousin. She was not well when I visited, and about 6 months later she passed away. I was fortunate enough to attend her funeral and meet a lot of her family that I had not met before.

Children of Pat and Nelda:

253. Sonya Raynell Bills 1938–2014

254. Patsy Wendolyn Bills 1942–2012

106. Donald Dean Bills 13 AUG 1925 • Loving, Young, TX - 29 JAN 2004 • Amarillo, Potter, TX
Dorothy Lee Hughes 4 DEC 1925 • Channing, Hartley, TX - 23 OCT 2001 • Amarillo, Potter, TX



Donald was Rush and Clemmie's 4th child followed quickly by his twin sister Dorothy. The birth certificate notes that he was born first. Doesn't he know that ladies should be first! By the time he appeared in his first census, Leota had married and moved out, but the rest of the kids were still at home. In my research, I found an article from 1938 that said Don won a pen at school for good grades. In the 1940

Census, older brother JR had moved out and youngest sister Mary Glynn had joined the family.

Donald was a talented musician and shortly after starting high school, he formed a band called the Swingsters. A picture is included in the entry for my father later in this narrative, as Dad was the guitar player in the band. Donald registered for the draft in 1946. I'm a little confused by this since in his wedding announcement in 1944, it noted that he was serving in the Navy. It noted that he had been attending Texas Tech along with his future bride Dorothy when he enlisted. From his obituary, I found this note: *Bills entered the US Navy in 1943. He trained in San Diego, Norfolk, Va., Long Beach, Long Island, and San Pedro. Bills served in Okinawa. He was awarded APO, ATO, Victory, and Battle Stars.* He came in from San Diego Naval Training Base to get married in 1944. Dorothy was a farmer's daughter from Channing TX, which is a small town north of Amarillo. A news clipping from Jan 1946, noted that Don had returned for duty in the Pacific. He returned to Tech to finish his degree and graduated in 1949. Back to his draft registration in 1946. This must have been completed right after his return from the war as his address was in Channing which leads me to believe that Dorothy must have been back to her home while Don was away. Also, in 1945, their daughter Brenda was born in Potter County - Amarillo probably. Don was 5' - 10" - 150 lbs. with blue eyes, brown hair, a dark complexion, and a small scar on his right hand. While at Tech in 1947, Don was involved in a collision when 83-year-old William Truop ran into his DeSoto. Fortunately, he didn't have any injuries.

The 1950 Census found Don, Dorothy, and Brenda living at 707 S. Richland in Olney TX. Don was working as a geologist for an oil company. It also noted in the special notes that Dorothy only claimed to have completed high school, but I believe that she spent some time at Tech. Don's father died in 1952. His work led him to Casper Wyoming in the mid 50's. And then to Calgary Alberta in the late 50's. While in Canada, they adopted son Daniel who was born in 1959, and then their daughter Elizabeth was born in Canada in 1960 six days after my youngest sister was born in Venezuela.

Don and family were back in Denver in the early 60's when Don decided to start his own business as an independent geology consultant in 1962. The article noted that he resigned from Champlin Oil Company after 10 years. He spent 5 years in Canada with Champlin and 5 years in the Rockies. Before that he had worked for City Services in Illinois and Montana. Again, from his obituary: *He worked as a petroleum geologist for several oil companies in the United State and Canada before becoming an independent geologist and moving to Denver in 1962. He had been a resident of Amarillo since 1968.* Daughter Brenda married Robert Biggs in 1967 and had a son in 1969. They divorced in 1973 and she later married Robert Parks. I don't have a lot of information after that and hopefully Brenda will fill in the blanks.

I do know that his son Daniel died of a heart attack in 2001. Daniel had married Kristi Johnson in 1980 and they had a daughter in 1981, but divorced in 1982. He later married Susan Hudkins. Daughter Elizabeth never married. She was an attorney and worked for the Attorney General of Texas in the Office of Environmental Protection.

Dorothy died in Amarillo in 2001, and Donald died in 2004. During his later years, he had inherited Aunt Nelda's genealogy records and apparently spent a lot of time working on family research along with daughter Brenda. He and Brenda contributed a lot of information and photos to Betty Schetter's Book Circle of Love which is an excellent genealogical study of various families including the Bills. Some more info from his obituary: *He was a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and the Panhandle Geological Society. He was an active member of the Amarillo Optimist Club for many years and had served as the president and lieutenant governor for the North Texas District. He and his wife were great fans of hockey and were part owners of Amarillo's first professional hockey team, the Amarillo Wranglers, in the mid-1970s. He started playing piano by ear at a young age and formed his own band, The Swingsters, in 1940. He played the bass in the US Navy band during World War II and played both the piano and bass while attending Tech. In the last few years of his life, he and some musician friends in Amarillo enjoyed playing for nursing and retirement homes in Amarillo.*

Children of Don and Dorothy:

255. Brenda Brooke Bills 1945–

XX. Daniel A. Bills 1959–2001 - my decision is to not give numbers to adopted children.

256. Mary Elizabeth Bills 1960–2009

107. Dorothy Jean Bills 13 AUG 1925 • Loving, Young, TX - 28 SEP 2015 • Tomball, Harris County, TX
 Larice Lavell Boyle 20 AUG 1920 • Graham, Young, TX - 24 FEB 1944 • Florida
 Joe Wendell Ligon Sr 9 JULY 1923 • Loving, Young, TX - 26 JAN 1995 • Loving, Young, TX



As noted above, Dorothy was the 2nd born of twins in August of 1925. As with Don, Leota had moved on, but JR and Pat were still home and Jack arrived before the 1930 Census. Between 1930 and 1940, Dorothy attended school and like Donald, graduated in 1941. I read several news accounts of her receiving awards for good grades. Her youngest sister Mary Glynn arrived in 1931. The 1940 Census showed her living on the family farm on Graham Loving Road which is now SH16. The census was taken in April, and at that time, Don and Dorothy were nearing the end of their sophomore year.

LIGON, JOE W.
 S/Sgt. Joe W. Ligon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Noel Ligon, Loving, husband of Dorothy Bills, graduate of Graham High. Entered Army, 1941 trained in Hawaii. Served in Pacific. Awarded APO, 3 Battle Stars, AD, Bronze Star, PL, 2 Bronze Stars and GCM. Discharged in 1945.



LISLE, GLEN W.
 S/Sgt. Glen W. Lisle, son of T. L. Lisle, Graham, husband of Kathleen Ardis. graduate of Graham High. Entered

BOYD, SCOTTY
 S/Lc Scotty Boyd, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Boyd of Olney, Texas, husband of Lucille Tucker. Entered Navy in 1944, trained at San Diego, Cal. Served in S. Pacific, and Korea. Awarded GCM, and other decorations. Discharged in 1946.



BOYLE, LARICE L.
 S/Sgt. Larice L. Boyle, son of Mr. and Mrs. George E. Boyle, Loving, husband of Dorothy Jean Bills. Entered Army AC, in 1942, trained at Sheppard Field, Tenn., Fla., Colo., and Miss. Served in USA.

Dorothy married Larice Boyle in 1942. He was also from Loving and had joined the Army Air Corp in 1942 and had risen to the rank of Sgt at the time of their marriage. He must have taken leave from his base in Oklahoma to come to Ft Worth for their wedding. She had enlisted in the Army Nursing Corp in 1942,

and was training at Harris School of Nursing in Fort Worth. Sadly, Larice was killed in a training accident 4 months later. While all of this was going on, her future husband Joe Ligon had joined the army in 1941 and was serving in Hawaii when the Japanese attacked. I'm not sure if he was at Pearl Harbor. He continued to serve in the Pacific until the end of the war and was discharged in 1945. He was also from Loving and his father was a truck driver for a garage. Dorothy and Joe married in 1945. Dorothy continued her nursing education and graduated in 1946. Joe was in Corpus immediately after serving and for some reason had to register for the draft in 1945. At the time, he was not working. He lived at 117 Pearse Street. He was 6'-0" with brown hair and eyes and a dark complexion. At some point, he went to work for Halliburton and in 1947, their first daughter Martha was born in Robstown near Corpus. In March of 1950, son Joe was born in Karnes City. In that Census, he was working for Halliburton as an oil tester. The 50's saw the kids keep coming. Diana was born in 1953, followed by John Noel in 1956, and Karen in 1957. Dorothy's father died in 1952.

At some point, they moved from Karnes City to McAllen Tx. In 1964, Dorothy was installed as an officer in The Texas Nurses Association. In 1970, she was working as a school nurse in McAllen. Her mother died in 1970. Daughter Martha was married in 1966 and had three children beginning in 1970. Son Joe seems to have married a few times. I did not see any children from his early marriages, but he had a couple of sons in the 90's. Daughter Diana married in 1979 and has a couple of children. Son John married in 1979 and I have not discovered any children. Finally, daughter Karen married in 1982, and I have not found any children from her marriage. Joe died in Loving in 1995 and at that time he had 12 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. I've only accounted for 7 of the grandchildren, so I guess I need to search a little more. Dorothy died in Tomball in 2015. I'm assuming that she came to live closer to daughter Diana after Joe died. She had just turned 90. She outlived all of her siblings except her youngest sister Mary Glynn.

Children of Joe and Dorothy:

- 257. Mary Martha Ligon 1947–2013
- 258. Joe Wendell Ligon Jr 1950–Living
- 259. Doris Diane Ligon 1953–Living
- 260. John Noel Ligon 1956–Living
- 261. Karen Kaye Ligon 1957–Living

108. Jack Autry Bills - 22 Nov 1926 • Loving, Young, TX - 23 JAN 2011 • Kerrville, Kerr, TX
Betty Ruth Butler - 27 MAR 1930 • Loving, Young, TX - 13 DEC 2021 • Kerrville, Kerr, TX



Jack was the youngest son of JR and Clemmie Bills. He was born on 22 Nov 1926 in Loving, TX. His oldest sister was 18 years older and he had a younger sister that was born 5 years after him. That's quite a span for Clemmie. Jack grew up on the family farm outside Loving and had a fun childhood. He did all of the things one does on a farm to include lots of chores, fishing, hunting, and raising animals. He told me that they didn't get electricity at the farm until he was 15 so summers were hot and nights were dark. He moved his bed out to the porch in the summer to be cooler. Jack and his older brother Donald were in a band that Donald started called the Swingsters. They played events all over the county and it must have been a thrill to be "famous". That's Don on the piano and Jack on the guitar. Jack continued playing guitar all his life and taught all of his kids to play. His playing and singing remain one of my fondest memories of him. In later life, whenever he and Mom went to a party, Dad would always happen to have his guitar in the car and that would lead to an evening of singalongs.

As a youngster, Jack was active in the 4H Club and served as an officer in various capacities. Jack graduated from Graham HS in 1943. He told me that he was always the shortest kid in his class and didn't grow to 6' until after graduation from high school. He graduated from GHS in 1943. He was still too young to enlist in the service, so I believe that he enrolled at Texas Tech, but upon turning 18, he enlisted in the Navy in 1945. He attended training in Chicago and Corpus Christi and was at the Corpus Naval Air Station when victory over Germany was announced. He said he was fortunate to have been on a pass so he got to celebrate, but the base was locked down when the surrender was announced, so many sailors missed the festivities. He was posted to San Diego when Japan surrendered so he bided his time until he could be

discharged. Upon discharge, he returned to school at Tech.

In the meantime, Betty was growing up on a nearby farm in Loving, but she was the same age as Jack's younger sister, so I suspect that's how they met. Betty played violin and was apparently pretty good as she was first chair at Graham HS when she was 13. Betty's two older brothers were in the war, and her oldest brother was shot down and killed on Jan 11, 1944 in Germany. Her father was on the Draft Board all during the war and on Betty's 16th



birthday in 1946, he dropped dead of a heart attack. The stress of losing his son and sending boys off to war must have taken its toll. Betty graduated from GHS and her widowed mother arranged for her to go to business school, but she had other ideas. She had met this handsome young sailor, Jack and in Feb 1948, they were married in Graham. Jack came home from Tech for the wedding and they took a bus back to Lubbock afterwards. Jack graduated in 1949 from Tech with a degree in Petroleum Engineering and went to work in the west Texas oil fields. Their first daughter, Sharon was born in 1949 in Levelland and Richard followed in 1951 in Andrews.

Life in west Texas was pretty rough, and in 1954, Jack had an opportunity to go to work in Venezuela with Gulf Oil Company. Despite having two youngsters, Betty didn't miss a beat and told him to go for it. He went down in early 1954 with the family following about 6 months later after housing was secured. Jack and family spent the next 11 years in San Tome, Venezuela. This was one good sized oil camp in Eastern Venezuela which was a wonderful place to live. There were probably 250 families living in camp. There was an excellent school and a very nice club with a pool, soda fountain, restaurant and movie theater. There was also a golf course. Life was good. In 1960, Kathryn arrived on the scene to complete the family.

In 1965, Jack had some issues with office politics in San Tome and decided to transfer back to the states. He ended up in Odessa, but found Odessa to be professionally unchallenging and began searching for alternatives. As fate would have it, his boss was scheduled to go to Bolivia but the boss's wife backed out at the last minute, so Jack raised his hand and Bolivia it was. Sharon went off to UT and Richard went off to Peacock Military Academy in San Antonio since the schools in Bolivia ended at the 9th grade. Bolivia was a much smaller operation than Bolivia so you lived on the economy rather than the oil camps of Venezuela. They spent a couple of years in a rental in the middle of town and then built a house. Richard and Sharon visited during holidays. It was an interesting time in Bolivia with one President dying in a mysterious helicopter crash and in 1969, Che Guevara appeared on the scene wreaking havoc

unsuccessfully in the countryside. In another incident, there was a blowout on one of the rigs which necessitated the need to call in the famous Red Adair, so Jack got to spend time fighting the fire with Red. Later in 1969, the government got into a dispute with Gulf and decided to nationalize the company, so all of the Gulf employees had to beat a hasty retreat out of the country. Jack and Betty spent about six months in limbo as things were sorted out in Bolivia and Jack received an assignment to Kuwait.

They moved to Kuwait in 1970 and lived outside Kuwait City in a town called Al Ahmadi. Life in Kuwait seemed to suit them well. Sharon got married in 1971, but Richard was able to visit Kuwait a couple of times. The location afforded many opportunities to travel to interesting locations like Iran, Cyprus, and Europe. The operation in Kuwait was a joint venture between Gulf and British Petroleum and it was a massive operation. Jack was the Production Manager for the Burgan Oilfield, It was one of the largest oilfields in the world. During their stay in Kuwait, Kathryn attended the local school until the Kuwaiti Government decided that it was inappropriate for boys and girls to be in the same school. As such, the school closed and Kathryn left for boarding school at St Stephens in Austin. Jack and Betty spent 11 years in Kuwait and really enjoyed their time there. I'm not sure exactly what prompted their departure, but I seem to recall that there was a big push for "Kuwaitization" as the date approached for turning over the company to Kuwait. As such, they were transferred again to Kinshasa, Zaire.

Kinshasa again proved to be an interesting assignment. Jack had some problems converting his Spanish to French, but was able to make it work. Fortunately, it seems that many of his coworkers were old friends from previous assignments so they found it a nice place to live. Betty very much enjoyed seeking out and buying local African artifacts and amassed quite a collection of masks, carvings, beads, and pottery. Again, the location afforded the opportunity to take interesting trips to Kenya and South Africa. In 1984, Chevron purchased Gulf in a hostile



takeover and shortly thereafter Jack decided to retire.

Jack and Betty had purchased a house in Kerrville near Sharon, so retirement took them there. It was determined that the house they owned wasn't really what they wanted, so they bought a house out on Highway 16 across from Riverhill. It's ironic that the farm Jack grew up on was at the other end of Highway 16 in Young County. They spent many wonderful

retirement years in Kerrville where they were active in the church, Rotary, quilting, golf, and traveling. Many of their children and grandchildren lived nearby, so they hosted many family visits. On Halloween 2010 after a Trunk or Treat activity at church, Jack came home and fell down injuring his arm. The wound became infected and he went into a decline and passed away on 23 Jan 2011. Betty continued living in her home until health problems resulted in the need for her to move to Assisted Living. She remained lively and alert until shortly before her death on 13 Dec 2021.

Sharon married Bruce Curry in 1971 and had three children Rebecca 1971, David 1975, and Sarah in 1985. She has 5 grandchildren. Her oldest granddaughter was born just as Jack was dying, and Sarah

gave her Jack's middle name as Taylor's middle name since they were very close when Sarah was growing up.

Richard married in 1973 and had a son Nathan in 1978. He has two grandchildren Katharine and Austin.

Kathryn married in 1987 and has two daughters Rachel 1985 and Madeline 1995. Hopes for grandchildren still remain.

Children of Jack and Betty:

262. Sharon Jane Bills 1949–Living

263. Richard Brian Bills 1951–Living

264. Kathryn Ann Bills 1960–Living

109. Mary Glynn Bills 18 JAN 1931 • Loving, Young, TX - 25 MAR 2019 • Cleburne, Johnson, TX
Herbert Neal Mayes 14 DEC 1929 • Graham, Young, TX – Living



Mary Glynn was the last child of Rush and Clemmie. She was born in 1931, five years after her next older brother and 22 years after her older sister. Her first Census was 1940 and found the family living on Graham Loving Road with older twin brother and sister Donald and Dorothy, and older brother Jack. Additionally, her grandfather JA Cook lived with them. She was 9 years old and in the 3rd grade. In 1947 at the ripe old age of 16, she married Neal Mayes in Newcastle. Neal was also from Young County and his father worked in the oilfields. He was mistakenly identified in the 1930 Census as a daughter. Neal and Mary Glynn both attended Graham High School. I believe that the rules for girls at the time were that they could not attend school if they were married. Neal continued high school and graduated in 1949. He was too young to have participated in WW2 and apparently did not have to register for the draft.

The 1950 Census found Neal and Mary Glynn living at 106 Sherman St in Nocona Texas which is a small town east of Wichita Falls and famous for boots. Neal was a pump repairman for an oilfield supply company and Mary Glynn was working as a cashier for the electric company. Mary Glynn's name fell on the line where extra information was collected and it seems to indicate that she had completed high school. In 1951, daughter Joy was born in Montague which is just south of Nocona. Son Bobby was born in the same place in 1953. As seems to be a pattern in several of the siblings, daughter Terri was born in 1960 in Wichita Falls. Mary Glynn's father died in 1952. Her mother died in 1970.

From Mary Glynn's obituary *"After all three of her children were in school, Mary Glynn began workings as a florist in Wichita Falls and continued that profession as she moved from Wichita Falls, Texas to Jackson, Mississippi and then to Houston, Texas. She loved making people happy with beautiful arrangements and holiday flowers. Mary Glynn and Neal have been members of Field Street Baptist Church*

since their retirement in 1985. Mary Glynn was a member of the choir and participated in the Living Christmas Tree for many years. She loved to play bridge and board games. She is known and loved by many younger people at Field Street where she taught 3rd Grade Sunday School for many years.”

A few things that I can add from personal knowledge. Uncle Neal played a mean banjo and Bobby played guitar. When I graduated in 1972, I headed off to Virginia in Jan 19673 to go to Officer’s Basic. I stopped in Jackson and spent the night with the Mayes. Joy had gotten married in 1972, so she wasn’t at home. We had a nice visit and made some music together. After he retired, Neal and Bobby continued to make music and even made a Bluegrass and Gospel record. Also, after retirement, Neal and Mary Glynn used to take an early morning walk, and one morning they were run over by a hit and run driver. Fortunately, they recovered from their injuries. Son Bobby was married in 1980 and daughter Terri married in 1981. They have at least 6 grandchildren and a bunch of grandchildren who I see often on Facebook doing great family things. In 2016, Neal, Mary Glynn and Bobby came to Kerrville to visit my mother while I was there and we had a lovely meeting and played guitar and sang songs. Mary Glynn died in 2019, but Uncle Neal lives on and recently celebrated his 93rd birthday.

Children of Neal and Mary Glynn:

- 265. Joy Lynn Mayes 1951–Living
- 266. Robert Neal Mayes Jr 1953–Living
- 267. Terri Jean Mayes 1960–Living

This completes the grandchildren of Rush and Clemmie. Sonya was the first born in 1938 and Terri was the last born in 1960.

Gersham’s ninth child was his daughter Mattie Eugenia Bills (1889-1938) and her husband Clarence Roy Coxsey (1885–1942) and they had three children.

110. Essie Eugenia Coxsey 25 AUG 1913 • United States of America - 14 JUN 1973 • Metairie, Louisiana
Never married



Essie was the first child of Clarence and Mattie. Her father had been a marine, but mustered out and was in Navarro County in the early 1910’s where he married Mattie and Essie was born shortly thereafter. By 1920, they had moved to Post TX which is way out in west Texas, SE of Lubbock. They lived on a farm, and sister Kathryn had joined the family in 1916. Brother Clarence was born just after the census in 1920.

The 1930 Census found them back east in Shelby County which is SW of Brenham. Her father was still farming and all their kids were in school. The 1940 Census indicated that they had lived in Houston in 1935, and Essie’s mother died there in 1938. Essie continued her nursing training and went on active duty in 1941. The 1940 Census showed her studying nursing in Corsicana, TX. In 1945 according to a news article I found, she and her sister Kathryn were stationed in the Philippines, and her father and brother were serving in the Army in Europe.

I have not found Essie in the 1950 Census. A news article from 1948 showed that after the war, Essie became a recruiter for Navy nurses. She was sent to Shreveport to interview potential candidates. The article mentioned that she had originally enlisted in 1940 and spent the summer of 1945 on Sara Island in the Philippines assigned to a fleet hospital. Another article from 1948 showed that she followed her trip to Shreveport with a recruiting visit to Alexandria. A news article reported that in 1952, LT Essie Coxsey was transferred from the Great Lakes Training Center to the military hospital at

Newport News. In 1957, the Navy sent Essie to Indiana University to get her degree in Nursing Service Administration. In 1961, she flew into Houston from Amsterdam. Essie's father died in Houston in 1967 and Essie died in Metairie LA in 1973. She never married and had no children.

111. Kathryn Belle Coxsey 6 JUN 1916 • Post Garza, TX - 19 OCT 1990 • Covington, St Tammany, LA
Dieu-Donne Joseph Guidry 29 MAR 1928 • Mandeville, St Tammany, LA - 10 OCT 2011 - Same



Surprisingly, I have not been able to find a photo of Kathryn, but here is her husband. His picture has been difficult to find also.

Kathryn was the 2nd child of Clarence and Mattie. She was born after they moved to Post and appears in the 1920 Census. Like her sister, she appears in the 1930 Census with her older sister and younger brother having arrived in 1920.

The 1940 Census showed that she was studying nursing at Jefferson Davis Hospital in Houston, and that her home town was Graham, TX. In 1945, she was working in the natal unit of the Navy hospital in Pomona California, but was soon after transferred to the Philippines where she served with her older sister. Her military death records show that she served from 12 Aug 1941 to 15 Dec 1947. I hope she got home for Christmas. In Jan 1948, she married Dieu Guidry who was a Louisiana gentleman. Their son Ronald was born in Lafayette in 1949, and daughter Patrice in 1950. The 1950 Census found them living at 47 Vets Village in Lafayette where Dieu Donne was a lab Technician at the state hospital.

Various newspaper articles indicated that in 1955 he received his Dr of Philosophy from LSU. In 1960, they bought a home in Metairie. In 1974, he was appointed as the Dean of Admissions for LSU Medical School. Kathryn's father died in 1967. He retired from LSU in 1988 and Kathryn died in 1990. Dieu remarried Pamela McCreary at some point after Kathryn's death and he died in 2011. His obituary appears below and pretty well lines out the remainder of the family.

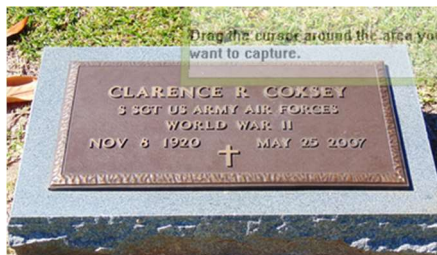
GUIDRY Dieu-donne J. (D.J.) Guidry, retired Dean of Admissions, LSU Medical School, former Professor of Microbiology, LSU Medical School, died on Monday, October 10, 2011 at the age of 83. One of the most important comments D.J. made was that "only the brightest of the bright walked through Medical School doors". He loved his students as Associate Professor. D.J. received his PHD in Microbiology which he taught at the LSU Medical School and at the LSU School of Dentistry. He retired from the LSU Medical School as Dean of Admissions in 1988. He loved his work but never thought of it as work. It was always that young person applying who was his joy and delight to be of help throughout the admissions process. Survived by his wife Pamela McCreary Guidry, his son Ronald J. Guidry and his wife Debra Dimm Guidry, by his daughter Patrice Ann Guidry Cedor and her husband Raymond J. Cedor, Jr. (Ronald and Patrice are his children by his previous marriage to Kathryn Belle Coxsey who left this world in October, 1990.) He has two grandchildren, both of whom are married. His grandson is Eric W. Cedor and his wife Nicole Brignac Cedor and their daughters Regan Therese Cedor and Elizabeth Marie Cedor. His granddaughter is Rachel Elizabeth Cedor Sharp and her husband Joshua Sharpe. He was among the most fortunate of men to have had such a loving and caring family. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral services on Friday, October 14, 2011 at 1:00 PM at Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 1501 W. Causeway Approach, Mandeville, LA 70471.

Children of Kathryn and Dieu Donne:

268. Ronald J Guidry 1949–Living

269. Patrice Ann Guidry 1950–Living

112. Clarence Raymond Coxsey 8 NOV 1920 • Wilson, Lynn, TX - 25 MAY 2007 • Groveton, TX
Billie Juanita Getro 22 JAN 1932 - 14 MAY 1987 • Houston, TX



These are the only photos that I could find for Raymond and Billie.

Clarence was the last child of Mattie and Clarence. Born in 1920, he missed the 1920 Census, but shows up in the 1930 Census in Shelby Texas with his two older sisters. He was 9 and attending school. His father was a farmer. His mother died in 1938 so in the 1940 Census it was just Raymond and his father on a farm in Anderson Texas where they had moved from Shelby. Anderson was up near Navasota. The census showed that he had completed high school. In September of 1940, he went to Lufkin and enlisted in the Army Air Corp. There is a news report that Clarence came home on furlough in July 1945 after 25 months in England. He had been with the HQ of the 2nd Air Division at Ketteringham Hall. He was pending reassignment and had achieved the rank of Staff SGT. This is the same time that his two sisters were off in the Philippines providing nursing services. He was discharged in October and was living temporarily in Houston at 6942 Moss Rose St with his father. He was 6'-1 1/2" - 163 lbs. - with gray eyes, brown hair, and a ruddy complexion.

I haven't found marriage records, but sometime around 1950, he married Billie Getro. They had three children beginning with Clarence Jr in 1952, Thenia in 1953, and Bill in 1956. It looks like all of the kids were born in the Houston area. His father died in 1967, and sister Essie died in 1973 and Clarence was the executor of her estate. I don't have any details, but it looks like he was in California for a few years in the early 80's. Billie died in 1987 in Ratliff TX. Clarence ended up in Groveton which is north of Lake Livingston. According to his obituary, he had been a truck driver for Central Freight Lines. He died in Groveton in 2007.

Children of Clarence and Billie:

- 270. Clarence Raymond Coxsey Jr 1952–Living
- 271. Thenia Eugenia Coxsey 1953–Living
- 272. William Gussey Coxsey 1956–Living

Gersham's tenth child was his daughter Leota L. Bills (1891-1975) and her husband Isaac Lycurgus Moore (1885-1961) and they had one child.

113. Ruby Faye Moore 19 AUG 1915 • Frost Navarro, TX - 3 MAY 1999 • Denton, TX
Carl Lee Perkins 11 DEC 1912 • Celina, Collin, TX - 29 OCT 1995 • Denton, TX



The only photo that I have found of Ruby and Carl is of their gravestone.

Ruby was the only child of Leota and Curg. Born in 1915, she first appeared in the 1920 Census living on the family farm in Mustang. As was previously noted, her father was the cousin of Ed Moore who had come to Mustang around 1912, and Curg followed him to Mustang in 1917 after having bought a farm there in 1915. In 1920, they lived on Mustang Road and had

two boarders living with them. They were living at the same place in 1930 and 14-year-old Ruby was attending school.

When Ruby was 18 in 1933, she married Carl Perkins in Denton County. Carl was from the same area and his father was also a farmer. He was about 3 years older than Ruby. Their first child, a daughter Loleta was born in 1934. The 1940 Census showed Ruby, Carl, and Loleta living in rural Denton County and they had a 66-year-old boarder staying with them. It's interesting that the boarder's name was Mary Cashin and the Cashin family lived next door. The Census noted that both Carl and Ruby were high school graduates. In Carl's draft registration, their address is given as RFD#1, Pilot Point, TX. Carl was 5'-9" - 140 lbs., with brown eyes, black hair, and a dark complexion. I have not found evidence of Carl's WW2 service. In 1947, their 2nd child, Carla, was born. I have seen no evidence of other children, but with a 13-year gap one wonders.

The 1950 Census found the family living at 2802 Friendship Spring North Road. This census indicated that Loleta had completed her junior year of high school. Loleta got married in 1956 and had children in 1961 and 1964. Carla got married somewhere around 1966 and had children in 1967, 1968, and following her mom's pattern of waiting 13 years, a third in 1981. Her father died in 1961, and her mother in 1975. Carl and Ruby may have been in Hot Springs Arkansas from 1983 to 1993, but I suspect that the Ruby Perkins I found with that address is another person. Carl died in 1995 in Denton and Ruby died in 1999.

Children of Ruby and Carl:

273. Loleta Joyce Perkins 1934–2008

274. Carla Fae Perkins 1947–Living

Gersham's eleventh child was his son Louis Graham Bills (1894-1972) and his wife Myrtle A. Phillips (1898–1961) and they had four children.

114. Garth Autry Bills 15 JUL 1917 • Emmett, Navarro, TX -15 OCT 1972 • Breckenridge, Stephens, TX
Rose LaNell Botkins 26 DEC 1918 • Fort Worth, Tarrant, TX - 22 FEB 1998 • Abilene, Taylor, TX



Not a great shot of Garth. I found this one from high school. I found this one of Nell from a news article.

Garth was the first son of Louis and Myrtle. He was

born in 1917 in the middle of WW1. By the time of his first census in 1920, Louis had moved from Emmet to Loving and was farming on Loving and Graham Road which is a familiar address as several other brothers had that address. Shortly after the census, his brother Louis Vaulter was born and then in 1925, a sister Bobbie Ruth joined the family. The 1930 Census found the four of them living at the same place on the farm along with a 42-year-old boarder, Annie Price who was a local school teacher.

The year 1935 was happy and sad. It was happy when daughter Lois Norfleet arrived in April, but sad when his brother Louis Vaulter died in November. In 1938, Garth married Rose probably in Loving. The marriage certificate simply says Young County. Although she was born in Ft Worth, in the 30's, Rose was living in Breckenridge and her father ran a gas station. The 1940 Census found Garth and Rose living

at 807 West Lindsey St in Breckenridge and Garth was working as a clerk in a grocery store. He had 2 years of college, and Rose had one. In the supplemental questions, Garth was paying social security taxes and noted the he was a bookkeeper in any kind of business. His WW2 draft registration listed his address as 600 North Rose in Breckenridge and his employer was Clover Farm Stores at 311 West Walker. He was 5'-10 ¼ - 135 lbs with brown eyes, brown hair, and a light complexion. At some point, he joined the Navy. There is a Navy muster roll from February 1945 where he appears to be a radioman aboard the USS Takanis Bay (CVE-89). His Dept of Veteran Affairs gives the following dates.



USS *Takanis Bay* (CVE-89) underway in May 1944

Enlistment Date: 14 Feb 1943
Discharge Date: 9 Jan 1946
Enlistment Date: 14 Dec 1943

Garth's (also known as Mickey) son Ronald was born in 1942. Daughter Martha was born in 1944, Diane was born in 1950, and daughter Melinda was born in 1956. The 1950 Census found the Bills living at 1011 E. Elm in Breckenridge and Mickey was working as a Postal Clerk. Besides the birth of his daughter, Mickey seems to have been very active in the American Legion. There are numerous news

stories about his involvement in American Legion activities and leadership. While Micky was staying busy, Nell had gone to work for the Breckenridge American newspaper, but in 1956 when her daughter was born, she resigned. Additionally, starting in 1952, she was the publicity Director for the Breckenridge Boys Choir. Their oldest son was a member of the choir, and in 1962, they performed at the White House and Ronald sang a solo. Upon his return to Breckenridge, he and a friend went out boating and were swept over a dam. Ron died in the accident, but his friend survived. First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy sent a letter of condolence.

In 1966, Mickey was nominated by LBJ to be the Postmaster in Breckenridge after having served as the Assistant for several years. He served effectively, but sadly in 1972, Mickey died only four months after the death of his father in June of that year. At the time of his death, he had four grandchildren from his oldest daughter Melissa and maybe three from daughter Diane.

Following Mickey's death, Nell went back to work in 1976 as a reporter for the Abilene Reporter News. In 1977 she moved to Abilene. It seems she had been doing some newspaper work from home between 1956 and 1976, but this was a return to full time employment. In looking her up on Mewspapers.com, I ran across over 1000 articles with her byline. In 1979, she married Donald Compfort in Abilene. Her daughter Diane was married to Ray Harrison who was serving in Germany in the US Army in 1976, and had three kids. Nell had not met the youngest as he must have been born in Germany. Rose died in Abilene in 1998 and Donald died in 1999.

Children of Mickey and Nell:

- 275. Ronald Nelson Bills 1942–1962
 - 276. Martha Sue Bills 1944–Living
 - 277. Diane Elizabeth Bills 1950–Living
 - 278. Melinda Ann Bills 1956–Living
-



115. Louis Vaulter Bills 7 SEP 1920 • Young, TX - 28 NOV 1935 • Red Top, Young County, TX

Louis was born in 1920 - too late for the census that year. He appeared in the 1930 census with his older brother and younger sister. I haven't been able to find any details of his death other than this brief article describing his burial in 1935. It looks like he passed away on Thanksgiving Day.

116. Bobbie Ruth Bills 9 OCT 1925 • Red Top, Young County, TX - 4 FEB 2016 • Waco, McLennan, TX



Bobbie was born in 1925 so she first showed up in the 1930 Census with her two older brothers living on her father's farm in Loving County. In 1935, her brother Louis died. The 1940 Census found 14-year-old Bobbie at home with her younger sister. Her old brother Garth had married and moved to Breckenridge, and new baby sister Lois had arrived shortly before her brother Louis died.

Bobbie graduated from Graham High School in 1944. The 1950 Census found her as a patient at the Abilene State School. Researching that institution shows that it was a hospital for patients suffering from epilepsy. I have had trouble finding much more information about Bobbie. I did find an article in 1975, where she had been admitted to the local hospital in Abilene from the Abilene State School, so she apparently spent a long time there. She died in Waco in 2016. Her obituary does not contain many details.

Bobbie Ruth Bills of Waco passed away Thursday, Feb. 4, 2016. Services will be 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 10, at Beacon Hill Baptist Church with Bro. Harley Gordon officiating. Committal will be at Red Top Cemetery, Thursday, Feb. 11, in Graham, Texas.

Bobbie was born October 9, 1925 in Loving, Texas, to Louis and Myrtle Bills. She was preceded in death by her parents, and a sister, Norfleet Martin. She is survived by her friend, Dorothy Smith, of Waco; a cousin, Brenda Parks, of Pennsylvania and other family and friends.

117. Lois Norfleet Bills 12 APR 1935 • Young, TX - 8 JAN 2015 • Fort Worth, Tarrant, TX
Rex Lucian Martin Jr 23 JUN 1930 • Marlin, Falls, TX - 3 APR 1995 • Fort Worth, Tarrant, TX



Norfleet was the last child of Louis and Myrtle. As has been noted, she was born a few months before the untimely death of her older brother. She shows up first in the 1940 Census with her parent and older sister Bobbie at the family farm in Loving TX. Her next appearance is as a 14-year-old at home with her parents still at the farm. My guess is that she was nearing completion of Jr High School at this point. In April 19567, her engagement to Rex Martin was announced. He was attending TCU and she was attending the Harris College of Nursing, both in Ft Worth. A summer wedding was planned and Rex was from Mart Tx which is a small town

that did take place in June.

outside of Waco. His father was a pharmacist. After their wedding, he had one more year at TCU, so they lived there and in 1959, their son Mark was born. In 1961 a second son Michael was born and in 1963, daughter Melonie was born in Fort Worth. As a side note, Rex has served in the Air Force from 1950 to 1954 during the Korean Conflict.

Below is Norfleet's Obituary from Jan 2015. Her husband Rex had died in 1995.

Norfleet was born to Louis and Myrtle Bills on April 12, 1935, in the Redtop community in Young County. She graduated from Graham High School in 1953. She graduated from the Harris College of Nursing at Texas Christian University in 1957. She met Rex L. Martin Jr. while attending TCU; they were married on June 29, 1957. Norfleet began her career as a pediatric nurse for five years before becoming a full-time homemaker raising their three children. She updated her education and returned to work to serve as a school nurse in the Fort Worth ISD from 1975 until her retirement in 2000. She was a lifetime Methodist, attending Jean Methodist in her growing years and joined Westcliff UMC with the family in 1965 where she was active in various capacities and groups. She completed her life journey attending Arborlawn UMC.

I haven't totally tracked down her children and grandchildren, but also from her obituary is the following:

She was preceded in death by her husband, Rex, in April 1995. Survivors: Son, Mark Martin and wife, Artina, of Mansfield; son, Michael of Fort Worth; daughter, Melonie and her husband, David, of Cheyenne, Wyo.; granddaughters, Lauren Hurst, Ciji Buchanan (Eric), and Teah Brooks; grandsons, Zachary Hurst and Chrisdon Morgan; great-grandsons, Eric II and CJ; two sisters-in-law; and a host of nieces and nephews, friends and church family.

According to Rex's obituary, he worked for General Dynamics. In his spare time, he had charted a youth track and field organization called the Texas Racers which he managed and coached. He was also President of Metroplex Technical Services.

Children of Rex and Norfleet:

- 279. Mark Allen Martin 1959–Living
 - 280. Michael Wayne Martin 1961–Living
 - 281. Melonie Ann Martin 1963–Living
-

Gersham's twelfth child was his son Alford A. Bills (1897-1904) and he had no children. This completes the grandchildren of Gersham. By my count, there are 36 grandchildren with the first being born in 1894 and the last in 1935. Since he died in 1904 and Eugenia died in 1917, neither of them knew the last 16 of their grandchildren.

Created by Richard B. Bills (Jack Autry-John Rush-Gersham Alexander- Amos London)

Contact - rbills_houston@yahoo.com - would love to hear from any cousins especially with corrections
(12/30/2022)