

The Descendants of William Lawson Smith (1852-1906?) and Emily Spartis Guthrie (1855-1939) of Texas

This is the continuing saga of the descendants of Jesse R. Smith and Elizabeth Harrison Smith and an examination of the life of their 3rd child and his children and an introduction of his grandchildren. As usual, I'll leave a brief introduction of John and Lucy before delving into the children.

- 4. William Lawson Smith** 27 NOV 1852 • Washington, TX - DEATH Before 1910 Bell, TX?
Emily Spartis Guthrie 3 MAY 1855 • Lavaca County, TX - 1 APRIL 1939 • Olton, Lamb, TX
Marriage: 10 Jul 1873 • Bell, TX

William was the 3rd child of Jesse and Elizabeth arriving in 1852 probably in Washington County before the move to Atascosa in late 1850's. He first appears in the 1860 Census in Atascosa County with 6 siblings, his parents, and an uncle. He shows up next in 1870 after the family moved to Atascosa and everyone is still at home. Records show that in Jul 1873, he has made his way to Bell County and married Emily Spartis Guthrie. He would have been 20 and Emily almost 18. Emily had been born near Hallettsville, TX in Lavaca County in 1855 and she was one of the youngest children of William Guthrie and his last of several wives.

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- 21. William Renfro Smith** 20 JAN 1885 • Bartlett, Bell, TX - 10 OCT 1956 • Dallas, Dallas, TX
Wife #1 - Ovie Eloyce Mills 1892 • Holland, Bell, TX - 13 DEC 1932 • Carlsbad, Eddy, New Mexico
Married: about 1906, Texas
Wife #2 - Lela Walter Hedrick 4 APR 1899 • Ward, Texas - MAR 1975 Altus, Jackson, OK
Married: about 1933



Gravestones from Findagrave.

William, who apparently went by "Dock", was the 5th child of William and Emily and was probably born in Bartlett, TX. That is how he was identified in his first census in 1900.

While I haven't found marriage records, based on the date of his daughter's birth, William married Ovie Eloyce Mills about 1905 most likely in Bell County, TX. The census indicates that in 1910 they had been married 5 years which would imply that 20-year-old William married 12-year-old Oloyce. I looked to see if that 5 was transcribed incorrectly, but it is pretty clearly written. Anyway, they waited a few years before having their first child Ethel in 1909. They lived on Rock Quarry Road, but I am unsure of the town. The big city in Bell County is Temple, but I suspect they were down near Bartlett. Ovie was the third child of Bud and Eugenia Mills who lived just up the road from Bartlett in Holland. When I looked at her in the 1900 Census, there was a 27-year-old John Smith working on their farm. I wonder what, if any relationship, he had to William.



Children of William Renfro and his two wives, Eloyce and Lela

1018	106	Ethel Laguinn Smith	1908	2000	William and Ovey Child#1
1019	107	William Aubrey Smith	1912	1982	William and Ovey Child#2
	108	Walter R Smith	1934	1934	William and Lela Child#1 - Lived 6 days
	109	Infant Son Smith	1935	1938	William and Lela Child#2 - Twin stillborn
	110	Infant Daughter Smith	1935	1935	William and Lela Child#3 - Twin stillborn
	111	William Lawson Smith	1937	2009	William and Lela Child#5

106. Ethel Laguinn Smith 6 AUG 1908 • Holland, Bell, TX - MAR 2000 • Carlsbad, NM
 George Edgar Frazier 6 JUN 1907 • Whitney, TX - 8 AUG 2004 • Granbury, TX
 Marriage: 4 May 1932 • Waco, TX



George and Ethel's grave marker from Findagrave. Buried in Carlsbad, NM. News photos from their times in Carlsbad.

Ethel was the first child born to William and Eloyce Mills Smith arriving in Holland, TX on 6 Aug 1908.

Holland in a small town just north of Barlett between Georgetown and Temple. She appears in the 1910, 1920, and 1930 Censuses with her parents and her younger brother Aubrey as her father went from blacksmithing to welding in Holland and then Waco. Per a newspaper article I found, on 4 May 1932, she married George Frazier in Waco. That article reads: *WEDDING OF INTEREST TO CARLSBADITES Miss Ethel Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Smith of this city was united in marriage last Wednesday to George Frazier at the 7th and James Street Baptist Church Waco, Texas, by Rev. W. W. Melton, pastor. Mr. Frazier is the son of Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Frazier, of Walnut Springs, Texas, and is connected with the First National Bank of Waco, Texas. Following the ceremony, Miss Eliza Frazier entertained with a buffet supper, complimenting the bride and groom who left immediately after the supper for Ft. Worth and other points. They will reside in Waco.*

As a reminder, her parents and brother had moved to Carlsbad, and 7 months after her marriage, her mother died in a gas leak in Carlsbad that killed her and almost killed her sister-in-law, Ramona. We can see at the time of her marriage George was already involved in banking. While I have been unable to



find them in the 1940 Census, we get a peek into their whereabouts by looking at George's WW2 Draft Registration. At that time, they lived at 6111 Broadway in San Antonio, and George was working for the US Treasury Department as an Assistant National Bank Examiner. It looks like he reported to the Chief National Bank Examiner at the Federal Reserve Bank in Dallas. He was 6'-0"-150lbs-brown eyes-black hair-ruddy complexion. I was able to find 6111 Broadway in the 1940 Census, and there was an Ethel living there, but she was Ethel Haines so our Ethel must have moved into that house after the Census. A little side note – At the time they lived

there, TMI – The Texas Military Institute was located nearby. It was a military boarding school that had been established in 1893 and one of its early graduates was General Douglas McArthur. I attended boarding

school in San Antonio from 1966-1968 at Peacock Military which had been established in 1894 and General Dwight Eisenhower coached the Peacock Football team in the 1910's when he was a young LT stationed at Fort Sam Houston. TMI and Peacock were bitter rivals.

George was one of three children born to Squire and Mary Norman Frazier. Squire was originally from Kentucky, but was in Texas as early as 1900 and eventually went on to own a meat market in Walnut Springs which is in Bosque County, south of Fort Worth. Bosque County has been immortalized in song by Steve Fromholtz in his son "Texas Trilogy" which has also been covered by Lyle Lovett. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvFaKxN03-o> It's worth a listen. George was the youngest with an older sister Mary and older brother William. I found this funny story about George and William Renfro Smith in 1935. *Waco 'Dan Boone' George Frazier of the First National bank is preparing to emulate Daniel Boone by wearing a deerskin jacket. His father-in-law, W.R. Smith of Carlsbad, N.'M.' shot a deer and had it skinned and the skin tanned. He sent the skin to Frazier and promises him another one. Frazier will have a jacket made of the soft, thick leather.*



In other stories, George in the late 1930's was a skilled debater representing his Waco bank's debate team in the American Institute of Banking's debate competition. I found them in Waco in 1932 when George was working as a bookkeeper at the First National Bank. In 1934, he was in the proof department.

My records are not quite clear about his military service, but I know that he served in the Army Air Force. There is one record that shows that he enlisted on 1 Jan 1940 and then was discharged a year later. He may have joined the National Guard in that period and that may explain my inability to find him in the 1940 Census. Another record which I believe to be him shows him enlisting in 12 Nov 1942 and being stationed at Perrin Field in Sherman, TX. A search of Fold3 was unsuccessful. His biography on the occasion of his 50th anniversary says that he served from 1942-1944.

The 1950 Census shows that they were living in Snyder, TX in a travel court at 1001 25th street shown here. He was a banking VP. They did not have any children, and never did. They were sharing their lodging with a bunch of variously aged men who worked in the oil field. I don't know if they were in the process of just moving in or between homes.

Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head of House	Race	Gender	Age	Birth Date	Marital Status	Birth Place	Citizenship	Hours Worked	Occupation	Industry
1950 Census	1001 25th	Snyder, Scurry, Texas										
Frazier	Geo E	Lodger	White	Male	42	1908	Married	Texas		40	Vice President	Banking
Frazier	Ethel L	Lodger's Wife	White	Female	41	1909	Married	Texas				



1005 N. Thomas, Carlsbad – address in 1954.

704 Lakeside – address in 1958.



What I think is their final house at 1509 Live Oak Place at the Riverside Country Club in Carlsbad.

I'm going to let this biography from the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary add color to their lives.

THE FRAZIERS THEN - THE FRAZIERS NOW George and Ethel Frazier CARLSBAD - George and Ethel Frazier will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on April 20, 1997. She graduated from high school in 1926 in Waco and attended Toby Business College. He graduated from high school in 1925 from Walnut Springs, Texas. He attended Toby Business College and graduated from the American Institute of Banking. The couple met in Waco while she was working for W.T. Grant Company and he was working for The First National Bank. The couple were married on April 20, 1932, in Waco, Texas, at the Seventh and James Street Baptist Church by Pastor Melton. They moved to Carlsbad in 1953 from Snyder, Texas. He worked for First State Bank in Walnut Springs, First National Bank in Waco, National Bank Examiner in Dallas, served in the U.S. Air Force from 1942-44, Longview National Bank in Longview, Snyder National Bank in Snyder and American Bank of Carlsbad, serving as vice-president, executive vice-president, and senior vice-president.

He retired in 1972. He was involved in the Optimist Club in Waco, Civitan Club in Longview, Kiwanis Club in Snyder, Riverside Country Club, Carlsbad Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, Carlsbad Water and Sewer Commission, New Mexico Bankers Association, Carlsbad United Fund, Carlsbad Boys Club and elder of the Presbyterian Church. She kept busy as a homemaker and both were involved in the association called Hiway 185 U.S. and Hiway 45 Mexico for the purpose of promoting tourism between the two countries. He was elected president of the association.

She became involved with helping exchange students become settled in their Mexican homes. During their retirement they have enjoyed traveling with their motorhome. They have had wonderful trips to.

For some reason the end of the article was not included in the paper.

Ethel died in Carlsbad in 2000 and her obituary reads:

CARLSBAD - A memorial service for Ethel L. Frazier, 91, of Live Oak Place, will be at p.m. Friday at First Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Gene Harbaugh officiating. Interment of cremated remains will follow in the Frazier Church Frazier Ethel L. Frazier Columbarium. There is no visitation scheduled. West Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Ethel Laquin Smith Frazier was born Aug. 6, 1908, to William Renfro and Eloyce Mills Smith in Holland, Texas. The daughter of a blacksmith shop owner, she spent her formative years in the place of her birth. At age 13, her family moved to Temple, Texas, for two years then to Waco, Texas. Throughout high school she worked every Saturday at W.T. Grant Co. for \$1.50 per day.

She graduated from a class of 449 students from Waco High School in 1926. She and 383 classmates attended their 50-year reunion in 1976. She met George Frazier while working at W.T. Grant Co. and they were married April 20, 1932, following a lengthy courtship and engagement.

A close friend from Chile got Mrs. Frazier interested in speaking Spanish. She learned the correct grammar on her own. She became so accomplished at speaking Spanish that she was asked to escort the Carlsbad Rotary Club exchange students to their summer homes in Mexico as well as lead guided tours for residents of Carlsbad. She also taught Spanish at the Women's Club, Riverside Country Club and Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Frazier was a member of First Presbyterian Church and of the Ladies Golf Association at the Riverside Country Club. She was preceded in death by her brother, Aubrey Smith. Survivors include her husband, George, of the home.

George lived another 4 years and he died in 2004. His obituary reads:

GRANBURY, Texas - A memorial service for George Frazier, 97, of Granbury, Texas, formerly of Carlsbad, is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Friday, at the First Presbyterian Church in Carlsbad. Mr. Frazier, a long-time bank executive, died Sunday, Aug. 8, 2004, in Granbury.

He was born June 8, 1907, in Whitney, Texas. Preceding him in death is his wife of more than 60 years, Ethel Smith Frazier. Also preceding him in death are his parents, Squire and Molly Frazier; one brother, Ervin Frazier of Houston, Texas; and one sister, Hazel Ray Frazier of Granbury.

After graduation from high school in Walnut Springs, Texas, Mr. Frazier began his long banking career in the only bank in that small, rural community as the bank's only janitor. Progressing through the years, he worked in Texas banks in Waco, Longview and Snyder and served as a bank examiner for the U.S. Treasury Department. In 1953, Mr. Frazier became executive vice president of Wells Fargo Bank (formerly American Bank) of Carlsbad, from which he retired in 1972.

Mr. Frazier was active in numerous civic organizations throughout his life. He served as president of Kiwanis Club, Riverside Country Club, Carlsbad Rotary Club, Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce and Carlsbad United Way, and served with many others. He and his wife, Ethel, were active members of their church, First Presbyterian Church in Carlsbad. Mr. and Mrs. Frazier were avid golfers at Riverside Country Club in Carlsbad for many years and they enjoyed extensive travel in Canada, Mexico and Hawaii. George Frazier.

I have clipped quite a few articles that describe all of these events as they happened and they are available to view on my Ancestry page should you be interested. As I was reading this, I had recently finished working on James Edward Smith who would have been Ethel's much younger cousin who was very active with the Potash Open Golf Tourney which was held at Riverside Country Club where George and Ethel lived. I wonder if they were aware of each other. Ethel was 14 years older than James. Interesting to ponder.

107. William Aubrey Smith 22 JAN 1912 • Holland, TX - 10 NOV 1982 • Amarillo, TX

#1 Ramona Smith 3 JUL 1911 • Victor, Comanche TX - Death 2015 – unknown/uncertain

Married: 5 Jul 1932 Carlsbad, NM – per newspaper – record not found

#2 Lou Wright Howser 4 JUN 1916 • Dade County, Missouri - 13 AUG 2003 • Amarillo, TX

Married: Unsure – she shows up in his obituary



W. AUBREY SMITH



Photos of Aubrey and Ramona from Carlsbad Newspaper. Aubrey and Lou's grave marker in Missouri.



W. Aubrey was the 2nd child born to William Renfro and Eloyce Smith. He was born in Holland, TX like his sister and appears with his parents in the 1920 and 1930 Censuses before his parents move to Carlsbad, NM in the early 1930's. While his sister Ethel stayed behind in Texas, W. Aubrey went to New Mexico with his parents and in July 1932, he married Ramona Smith. (Yes, her birth name was Smith also.) She was the middle of three daughters born to Raleigh and May Edwards Smith and had an older sister Opal and a younger sister Anhiwa. Her mother had died in 1920 when she was 9. I haven't totally worked out her father's next steps. It appears that he may have married someone named Texas Smith, but there are some conflicts with that person, so I am not sure. Nonetheless, she ended up in Carlsbad in 1932 in time to marry W. Aubrey. An account of their wedding reads:

MISS SMITH MARRIED SMITH SUNDAY In an early Sunday morning ceremony, Miss Ramona Smith was made the bride of Aubrey Smith by the Rev. Young of the Church of Christ in the pastor's home before only a few relatives and close friends. The attractive ring, ceremony was used. The bride wore a

lovely blue and white sports ensemble and many the young, couple were feted at a breakfast party by the groom's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Smith, at their home. Mr. Smith is employed at the McAdoo Drug company and the bride is private secretary for Drs. Pate and Culpepper. Both will continue, their work. Leaving early Sunday morning the couple went to El Paso for the week end.

In December following their marriage if you will recall from William Renfro's biography, Ramona was looking in on her ailing mother-in-law while Aubrey was traveling out of town and was overcome by a gas leak which killed Eloyce and nearly killed Ramona. Aubrey had quit his job at the drugstore and was exploring western New Mexico for new opportunities. Fortunately, Ramona survived and they had a couple of sons with Mallory Drennon Smith arriving in 1933 in Texas and Ronald "Ron" Aubrey Smith arriving in 1938 in New Mexico. My assumption is that she went back to Texas to give birth to her first child as I can see no reason that Aubrey would have been back there unless he was visiting his sister Ethel.

While Aubrey was at home in 1930 driving a truck in Carlsbad, the 1940 Census found him and Ramona with their two sons working as a chemist in the potash business which seems to have been a driving force in Carlsbad as we have seen from previous relatives. They were hosting a 72-year-old retired widower names Willard Keen and I do not know anything about him or if he was in any way related. You can see their education below. They were paying \$18/month rent and no street names were given. I didn't find any directory listings for him in the 1930's.

Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head of House	Gender	Race	Age	Estimated Birth Year	Marital Status	Attended School	Highest Grade Completed	Birthplace	Live on Farm	Occupation	Industry
1940 Census													
Smith	W Aubrey	Head	Male	White	28	1912	Married	No	College, 2nd year	Texas	NO	Chemist	Potash
Smith	Ramona	Wife	Female	White	28	1912	Married	No	Elementary school, 8th grade	Texas			
Smith	Drennon	Son	Male	White	6	1933	Single	Yes		Texas			
Smith	Ronald A	Son	Male	White	2	1938	Single	No		New Mexico			
Keen	Willard	Lodger	Male	White	72	1868	Widowed	No	Elementary school, 5th grade	Alabama		Retired	

I have found several Directory listings for William Smith and one for W. Aubrey Smith with Ramona listing him as a miner in the 1940's. When he registered for the draft in 1940, they lived at 202 N. Main, Carlsbad, NM. That address is currently occupied by the State of NM Corrections Department that is permanently closed. There is a City Directory showing them at that address in 1946 with Aubrey working as a lab technician. He was 28 and referred to his wife as Mona. He worked for Union Potash and Chemical Company. He was 5'-11"-165lbs-blue eyes-brown hair-light complexion. I have not found any evidence of military service and I am assuming that he was able to get an exemption because of his work in the potash industry as we have learned was critical in manufacturing gunpowder. The 1950 Census found the family still in Carlsbad living at 308 N. Ash and Aubrey was working as a research engineer at the potash factory. Here is that house in 2007. Mallary was probably finishing high school and Ron was getting ready to start.



Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head of House	Race	Gender	Age	Birth Date	Marital Status	Birth Place	Citizenship	Hours Worked	Occupation	Industry
1950 Census	308 N Ash	Carlsbad, Eddy, New Mexico										
Smith	Aubrey W	Head	White	Male	38	1912	Married	Texas		70	Research Engineer	Potash Refinery
Smith	Mona	Wife	White	Female	38	1912	Married	Texas				
Smith	Mallory D	Son	White	Male	17	1933	Never Married	(Texas				
Smith	Ronald A	Son	White	Male	12	1938	Never Married	(New Mexico				

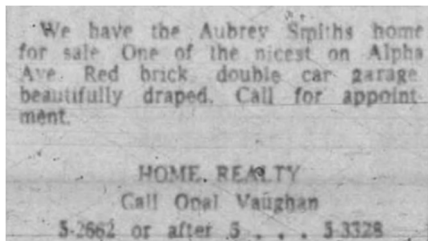


After 1950 unusually I have been able to find quite a bit of information, but there are still a few gaps. In the 1956 Directory, they were still living on N. Ash and he was the Assistant General Manager of Southwest Potash Co. In 1957, he had been promoted to General Manager and moved to 1306 Alpha. It's a little more upscale looking. At this point, Ramona was still listed with him. In 1959, son Ron was reported to be in Med School in St Louis. This article appeared when Aubrey was selected to go to Vicksburg, Mississippi to run the new potash facility in 1960.

Aubrey Smith Headed Research For New Project W. Aubrey Smith is vice president in charge of research of Southwest Potash Corporation which mines, refines and markets muriate of potash, a high grade fertilizer. Southwest Potash Corporation is a division of American Metal Climax, Inc. located in Carlsbad, NM. He was responsible for process development, and the design and construction of a plant built to treat ore from a newly-found potash body in Carlsbad. In 1955 he was appointed General Manager and in 1957 he was elected vice president in charge of research and development.

After attending Baylor University, Mr. Smith joined the joined the Potash Company of America where he served as assistant chief chemist. From 1940 to 1947, he worked for International Minerals and Chemical Corporation, rising to the position of chief metallurgist.

During the past 26 years, Mr. Smith has been engaged in engineering and operational activities in both surface and underground mining. His research has been directed toward the development and improvement of new processing methods and techniques which resulted in several new patents. Mr. Smith is a member of American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, American Chemical Society, New Mexico Mining Association, and he is a director of the New Mexico Economic Development Commission. Mr. Smith is married and has two sons in college.



Interestingly, this ad appeared in the Carlsbad paper in 1961. What makes it interesting to me is that the real estate agent is Ramona's sister Opal who had married Marion Byrd Vaughn. In Dec 1961, Ramona was involved in a car wreck which resulted in the death of a man named Eldon West, and in March 1962, she was sued for \$215,000 by his estate. Fortunately for her when the case finally went to court she was determined not to have been at fault. It must have been during this period that Aubrey and Ramona went their separate

ways. Aubrey was off to Vicksburg and this article from 1969 tells us about Ramona.

HAYES-SMITH AGENCY, Inc. Is Honored to Have RAMONA SMITH Associated with Their Firm! Ramona has returned: to Carlsbad after eight years on the West Coast where she was associated with Beach and Flaaten of Pasadena and San Marina, Calif., and later with Freeman Home Realty in Claremont, Calif. She has two sons. Ronald is a professor of economics at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Can. Mallory is in government service in Honolulu, Hawaii. Ramona's hobby is music. Ramona is a professional real estate saleswoman ready to help you with any of your real estate needs. She can be reached at the office, 710 N. Canyon, 885-41.17 or at 885-2465 after 5:00 p.m.

At some unknown point after 1961, Aubrey had a 2nd marriage to who I believe was Lou Wright. I've found some information about her that I believe is correct, but it is a bit convoluted. She seems to have been the 2nd youngest child born to Jesse and Lena Walford Wright of Missouri. In 1940, she was married to Carl Blankenship who was a deputy sheriff in Cassville, MO. He headed off to serve in WW2 and upon his return, they got divorced in 1946. In 1950, she appears as a beauty shop inspector in Springfield, Missouri and is listed as a widow. This suggests that she married again after Carl and as we have seen, widowed may mean widowed or divorced.

Former AMAX Manager Dies

AMARILLO, Texas — W. Aubrey Smith, 70, a former resident manager of AMAX Chemical Corp. potash mine at Carlsbad, died at his home this morning.

He was a long-time resident of Carlsbad and a former member of Fox & Lake Church of Christ.

He is survived by his wife Lou, two sons, M.D. Smith of Phoenix, Ariz., and Ron Smith of Princeton, N.J.; sister, Mrs. George Frazier of Carlsbad and two grandchildren, Lori and Stephen Smith of Phoenix.

Arrangements are pending.

W. Aubrey died in 1982 in Amarillo, TX and was buried in Missouri next to his 2nd wife, Lou Madonna Wright. His obituary is not too informative. It does seem that his two sons have done well and I will explore them in the next generation. I did find that Ron had a brilliant career and died in 1995. Mallory served in Korea in the Airforce, married Carol Wilkins in 1959 and had at least one son and died in 2012.

I have been unable to determine if Ramona ever remarried, though I expect not as she was busy in Real Estate in her 60's and had not married. Someone on Ancestry has suggested that she died in 2015, but I have not found any death records and that would have made her 104 years old.

Lou or Lucy died in Amarillo in 2003. Her death records indicate that she seems to have had another marriage after Howser to Alexander and the date

of the name change suggests that she and Aubry must have married after 1974. Sep 1938: Name listed as LOU WRIGHT BLANKENSHIP; Feb 1952: Name listed as LOU M HOWSER; Sep 1964: Name listed as LOU M ALEXANDER; 30 Dec 1974: Name listed as LOU M SMITH; Name listed as LOU M BLANKENSHIP

Children of W. Aubrey and Ramona Smith.

307	Mallory Drennon Smith	1933	2012	William and Ramona Child#1
308	Ronald "Ron" Aubrey Smith	1938	1995	William and Ramona Child#2

- 108. Walter R Smith** 15 JUN 1934 • Carlsbad, NM - 21 JUN 1934 • Carlsbad, NM
- 109. Infant Son Smith** 5 OCT 1935 • Carlsbad, NM - 5 OCT 1935 • Carlsbad
- 110. Infant Daughter Smith** 5 OCT 1935 • Carlsbad, NM - 5 OCT 1935 • Carlsbad

As you may recall, after the tragic death of his first wife, Eloyce in 1932, William Renfro Smith married Leila Hendrick and tried to start a 2nd family. He was about 49 and Leila 31 and their initial efforts were challenging. In 1934, they had a son born prematurely and he died after only 5 days. Then in 1935, Lelila gave birth to twins again prematurely with one living 5 minutes and the other being stillborn.

- 111. William Lawson Smith** 6 AUG 1937 • Mountain Park, NM - 4 OCT 2009 • Longview, TX
 Jeanette Louise Adams 15 NOV 1937 • Dallas, TX – Living
 Marriage: 2 Aug 1956 • Richardson, Texas

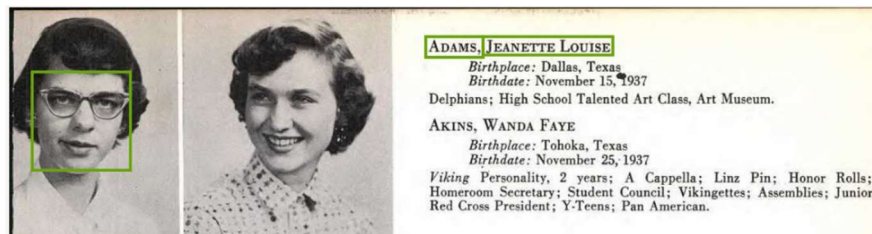


William’s grave marker in Longview, TX

His mother and father didn’t give up after losing their first three children, but persistence paid off and on 6 Aug 1937, William Lawson was born and survived and likely named after his grandfather. With a very common name and an air force career, research about William has been a little challenging. His parents

were 53 and 39 when he was born, and he had two older half siblings Ethel and W. Aubrey who were 29 and 25 years older than him and they must have been amused to have such a little brother. While his sister never had children, William was the uncle of Mallory and Ron Smith, the sons of W. Aubrey. He was four years younger than Mallory and one year older than Ron. I wonder if they called him Uncle Bill! Let me see what I have found.

With the 1950 Census for his parents having not been found, the only census that William appears in is in 1940 when he was two and being too young for WW2, there is not Draft Registration for him. The first record that I have found for him is his marriage record in 1956 to Jeanette Adams. That record indicates that they obtained a license on 1 Aug 1956 and were married on 2 Aug 1956 by Rev. Thomas K. Shipp in Richardson, TX. Jeanette was the oldest of two daughters born to William and Helen Waldrop Adams. Her father was a mailman in Dallas in the 1940 and 1950 Censuses. She had a younger sister, Martha Ann Adams. Here is here HS Senior picture and biography.



Bill and Jeanette had two daughters, Mary Melissa born in Dallas in 1965 and Jolie Nell born in Jun 1969 in an unknown location. With Bill having spent 22 years in the Air Force, I have been unable to

find when he enlisted, but based on his age, I'm thinking that it would have been the mid to late 1950's at the earliest, so he would have missed Korea, but likely served in Vietnam. My inclination is to think that with the marriage in 1956 and the birth of Mary in 1965, he probably joined around the time of his marriage and was in training when Mary was born. With Jolie apparently not being born in Texas, he was probably serving overseas or in another state when she was born. Nonetheless, the only other information that I have been able to find involves the marriages of his daughters. Mary married Thomas Gordon Cooper IV in Longview in 1988 while Jolie married Corey Gene Gilley in Longview in 1995. I'll have to look into them in more detail.

I have not found evidence of Jeanette's death so I assume that she is still living. Bill however died in 2009 and his obituary is below:

Longview News-Journal (TX) - Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Services for William L. "Bill" Smith, M.Sgt. USAF (Ret.), 72, of Longview, will be held at 10 a.m., Wednesday, October 7, 2009, at Pine Tree Church of Christ with Chaplain Jerry Haymes officiating. Burial will follow in Rosewood Park. Services are under the direction of Rader Funeral Home of Longview. Mr. Smith passed away Sunday morning in a local hospital. The family will receive friends today, October 6, 2009, from 6-8 p.m.

Bill was born on August 6, 1937, in Mountain Park, New Mexico to William and Lela Smith. He proudly served his country in the United States Air Force for 22 years. After his military career, he worked for Anchor Safety, formerly known as Glow Inc., and Southwest Steel Casting. He was a member of Pine Tree Church of Christ. Bill was a member of the Sound Connection Barbershop Chorus, and also enjoyed camping with his many friends in the Texas Military Retiree Camping Club.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, William Aubrey Smith; and one sister, Ethel Frazier.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife of 53 years, Jeanette Smith; daughters and sons-in-law, Melissa and Gordon Cooper, and Jolie and Corey Gilley, all of Longview; grandchildren, Melvin Cooper, Henry Cooper, Megan Gilley, and Morgan Gilley; cousin, Mary Blanch Martin of Silvertown, Texas; and nephew, Drennan Smith of Tucson, Arizona.

The family would like to extend a very special thanks to the doctors and nurses at the Good Shepherd Medical ICU Unit and Intermediate Care, and also to the staff of Clairmont Nursing Home. The family requests that memorial donations be made to the Caring and Sharing Center, 1303 S. Mobberly Ave., Longview, Texas 75601. A memorial guestbook may be signed at www.raderfh.com

Children of Bill and Jeanette Adams Smith

309	Mary Melissa Smith	1965	Living	William and Jeanette Child#1
310	Jolie N Smith	1969	Living	William and Jeanette Child#2
