

## 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.

- 
- 18. Cora Beatrice Smith Bennett** 3 NOV 1877 • Bartlett, TX-10 DEC 1964 • Olton, Lamb, TX  
Summie Fee Bennett 5 DEC 1874 • Bartlett, TX - 21 MAR 1972 • Littlefield, Lamb, TX  
Marriage: 2 Dec 1895 • Williamson, TX



One photo that I have for the Bennett's is their grave marker from the Olton Cemetery in Olton, TX

Olton is a small town in the Texas Panhandle west of Plainview. The other is of Cora with her granddaughter Jolene and her oldest daughter Velvia. This was posted on Ancestry by Sue Buerk as was the picture of Summie.

Cora was the 2<sup>nd</sup> child born to William and Emily in 1877 when they lived on the farm near Bartlett, TX. She appears there in the 1880 Census, but in Dec 1895, she married Summie Fee Bennett who was also from Bartlett. In examining their marriage certificate, I was surprised to see that the pastor who performed

Surname	Given Name	Relationship	Race	Gender	Birth Month	Birth Year	Marital Age	Status	Years Married	Number of Children Born	Number of Children Living	Birthplace	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Occupation	House Owned Free or Mortgaged	Farm or House
1900 Census	McClennan County, TX																
Bennett	Summie	Head	White	Male	Dec	1875	24	Married		4		Texas	Texas	Tennessee	Trader Horse		
Bennett	Cora	Wife	White	Female	Nov	1878	21	Married		4	2	Texas	Texas	Texas			
Bennett	Velva	Daughter	White	Female	Oct	1896	3	Single				Texas	Texas	Texas			

their wedding was the same W. H. Calhoun who had performed her sister, Pearl's wedding in 1891.

The final child born to Summie and Cora was their Ivey Eloyce. I think that she is the only sibling for which I have actually found a birth certificate. That birth certificate tells us that she was the 7<sup>th</sup> child

born to Cora but only 5 were surviving. Having just noticed this is troubling as it indicates that I am missing two children! Looking at the birthdates of her siblings, there are a couple of possibilities. Velvia was born in 1896 and then Minnie didn't arrive until 1903, a seven-year gap. That might suggest that Cora lost children in 1898 and 1900. There is also a 6-year gap between Summie and Mary and then a 5-year gap between Mary and Eloyce so there seem to be a lot of possibilities. Looking more closely at the 1900 Census in Bell County for Cora, I see that she had lost one child before 1900. Looking at the 1910 Census for Cora in Motley County, she had lost two children, so this narrows down the missing children to one after Velvia and before Minnie and then after Summie and before Mary. Velvia was born in Granger, Minnie claims to have been born in Houston so there is no telling where that missing child was born. Summie was born in Bartlett and Mary in Northfield, so that missing child may have arrived before they left central TX or after they got to Motley. As such, as much as I hate too, I'm going to add these two missing children and give them a sequence number, the bane of all genealogists as it leads to the need to go back and renumber old stuff! Alvy has devised a system that automatically rennumbers which I have printed out to learn, but as such have not yet taken the time, but maybe this will be my incentive.

#### Children of Cora and Summie

94	Velvia Mae Bennett	1896	1988	Child #1 - Cora and Summie
95	Unknown Bennett	1899	1899	Child #2 - Cora and Summie
96	Minnie Bell Bennett	1903	1988	Child #3 - Cora and Summie
97	Summie Lawson Bennett		1906	1981 Child #1 - Cora and Summie
98	Unknown Bennett	1908	1908	Child #2 - Cora and Summie
99	Mary Martha Bennett	1912	2007	Child #3 - Cora and Summie
100	Ivey Eloyce Bennett	1917	2014	Child #1 - Cora and Summie

---

**94. Velvia Mae Bennett** 4 OCT 1896 • Granger, TX - 17 NOV 1998 • Dallas, TX  
 William Edwin Hardison 11 JUN 1895 • Childress, TX - Before 1930 • Motley County  
 Married: about 1917 probably Childress



Photo from Sue Buerk on Ancestry – a granddaughter.

Cora and Summie's first child was Velvia Bennett who was born in Granger, TX on 4 Oct 1896 when they still lived in Granger in Williamson County just north of Georgetown. She appears at home in 1900 and 1910 and then around 1917, she married William (or Eddie) Harrison probably in Childress, but records have not been found by me. William, according to his WW1 Draft registration was born in Childress, TX a year before Velva. In the registration on 5 June either 1917 or 1918, he was married, working in Channing, TX which is a small town north of Amarillo. He was working on a farm for John Shelton. This was in Hartley County. He was medium height and build with brown eyes and hair. Daughter Esta Beatrice Hardison arrived in 1918. William was the son and oldest child of William and Mollie Foster Harrison. His father was originally from Missouri and his mother from Texas. William's father died in 1908 and his mother later married Jefferson Davis "Turk" Brown. Pardon the distraction, but that led me down a big rabbit hole that was interesting. Turk's father was Captain James M. Brown who had been a soldier of some note during the Civil War. His biography can be found here. It's worth a read.

<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph821501/m1/961/zoom/?q=%22John%20M%20Brown%22&resolution=2&lat=2911.5&lon=750>

Back to Velvia. After their marriage, their first child, Esta Beatrice Hardison arrived in 1918 and they appear in the 1920 Census in Childress TX where William is farming. They were renting their land.

Surname	Given Name	Relationship	Owned or Rented	Home Free or Mortgaged	Sex	Race	Age	Estimated Birth Year	Marital Status	Birthplace	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Occupation	Industry
1920 Census	Justice Precinct 2, Childress, Texas													
Hardison	W E	Head	Rented		Male	White	24	1896	Married	Texas	Texas	Texas	Farmer	Own Farm
Hardison	Velvia	Wife			Female	White	23	1897	Married	Texas	Texas	Texas		
Hardison	Estar	Daughter			Female	White	1	1919	Single	Texas	Texas	Texas		

Two more children arrived in the early 1920's with Louie Jolene Hardison in 1923 and Malcom Edwards Hardison in 1926. Sometime in this period, William disappeared, presumably died as Velvia appears as a widow in the 1930 Census. By now we have experienced enough instances of "widows" actually being divorced, but no record of William has been found after a listing in the 1923 Amarillo City Directory when he and Velvia lived at 707 Fillmore and he was a clerk. That's right in the middle of downtown Amarillo today, but that specific address does not exist. He was around in April 1926 when his son was born and was farming and was 30 so sometime between 1926 and 1930 something happened.

In the 1930 Census, we find Velvia with her three children, her "widowed" mother, and a 17-year-old Otho Irven helping run the farm. I put that in quotes, because, as a reminder, Cora's husband reappears

Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head or Rented	Home Owned Home Value	Radio Set	Lives on Farm	Gender	Race	Age	Birth Year	Marital Status	First Marriage	Attended School	Write	Birthplace	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Occupation
1930 Census	Precinct 3, Motley, Texas																
Hardison	Velvia	Head	Rented	No	Yes	Female	White	33	1897	Widowed		No	Yes	Texas	Texas	Texas	Farmer
Hardison	Esta	Daughter				Female	White	11	1919	Single		Yes	Yes	Texas	Texas	Texas	
Hardison	Joeline	Daughter				Female	White	7	1923	Single		No		Texas	Texas	Texas	
Hardison	Malcom E	Son				Male	White	3	1927	Single		No		Texas	Texas	Texas	
Irven	Otho	Boarder				Male	White	17	1913	Single		No	Yes	Texas	Texas	Texas	Laborer
Bennett	Cora	Mother				Female	White	53	1877	Widowed		No	Yes	Texas	Texas	Texas	

in the 1940 Census. Maybe he and William ran off somewhere together? I haven't found either of them in the 1930 Census.

The 1940 Census finds Velvia living in Olton, TX which is a small town north of Amarillo between Plainview and Muleshoe. At this time, she is "divorced" instead of widowed which makes me think that William must be around somewhere. She is the owner of a school lunch room. Her oldest daughter is no longer at home, but the two youngest, Jolene and Malcom are at home and both in high school. She is renting rooms to a local teacher, Fred Gordon and a local pharmacist, Kenneth Straw. You can see everyone's educational achievements below. As I mentioned above, her father has resurfaced and reunited with her mother. Her oldest daughter, Esta was a newlywed to Winfred Wink Dye and they were living in Plainview where Wink worked as a deliveryman for the railroad.

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	No Street Name: Olton, Lamb, Texas												
Hardison	Velvia	Head	Female	White	42	1898	Divorced	No	High School, 3rd year	Texas	No	Proprietor	Pta School Lunch Room
Hardison	Jolene	Daughter	Female	White	17	1923	Single	Yes	High School, 3rd year	Texas			
Hardison	Malcolm	Son	Male	White	13	1927	Single	Yes	High School, 1st year	Texas			
Gordon	Fred	Lodger	Male	White	26	1914	Single	No	College, 4th year	Texas		Teacher	Public School
Straw	Kenneth	Lodger	Male	White	24	1916	Single	No	College, 4th year	Oklahoma		Pharmacist	Retail Drug Store

After 1940, Velvia was now in Motley County, perhaps Matador TX and she was now "widowed" again, meaning either William reappeared and died, or the earlier "divorced" was a mistake. Cue head spinning! She was now living in Childress and working as a clerk at Watkins Dry Goods and providing rooms to a bunch of young folks working to area to include Fred Deusinger and Don Reiman who were working on a seismograph crew for Amerada Oil. There was also Marlene Kindle who was a telephone operator and Mary Corgell who worked for Doctor Borum. I wonder if any of these young folks ended up getting married. All of her kids were out of the house and I will give a brief update on the below.



Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head of House	Race	Gender	Age	Birth Date	Marital Status	Birth Place	Citizenship	Hours Worked	Occupation	Industry	Worker Class
1950 Census	101 N.E. Main		Childress, Texas, USA										
Hardison	Velva	Head		Female	52	1898	Widowed	Texas		42	Clerk	Walkins Dry Goods	Private
Deusinger	Fred	Lodger		Male	22	1928	Never Married	(Arkansas)		48	Sirimogocph Comp	Amerada Oil Co	Private
Reiman	Don	Lodger		Male	22	1928	Never Married	(Oklahoma)		48	Sirimogocph Comp	Amerada Oil Co	Private
Kindle	Marlene	Lodger		Female	18	1932	Never Married	(Texas)		40	Operator	Bell Telephone Co	Private
Corgell	Mary	Lodger		Female	20	1930	Never Married	(Texas)		48	Office Assistant	Dr J U Borum	Private

In 1950, Esta and Wink were in Odessa and Esta was working as a draftsman for Shell Oil and Wink was still working as a freight delivery man for the railroad. They did not have children. I believe that they eventually had at least one son in 1951.

Daughter Jolene had married Thomas Buerk and they were living in Cincinnati, OH in 1950 where Thomas was working as an accountant for the phone company and they had a son Thomas who had been born in 1948. I believe that they had at least two other children, but that will be explored in the next generation. I know that there is a Sue Buerk active on Ancestry, but I don't know if she is a child or granddaughter.

Son William had married Dorothy Boles before 1950 and he was working for a water softener company in Childress in 1950. I have not yet discovered any children.

Searching newspapers after 1950, I found several articles about Velvia visiting various family members through the 1960's. They will be referenced more when I explore her children. It was reported that she moved to Fort Worth in 1962, Her mother died in 1964 and her father in 1972. Her daughter Esta died in 1978 and her son in 1989. She lived to the ripe old age of 102 when she died in Dallas. Her obituary reads:

*Velvia Hardison Velvia Hardison, 102, was born Oct. 4, 1896, in Granger, Texas, and passed away Tuesday. She is survived by a daughter, Jolene Buerk and husband, Harold of Dallas; two sisters, Mary Patrick of San Antonio and Eloyce Smith of Olton, Texas; daughter-in-law, Dorothy Hardison of Amarillo; three grandchildren, Tom Buerk and wife, Sue of Fort Worth; Diane Maxson and husband, Sam of McKinney and Jerry Dye and wife, Mickey of Whitney, Texas; five "great-grand- children, Chrissa Mitchell, Jesse Maxson, Cory Maxson, Jerrid Dye and Jeff Dye; three great-greatgrandchildren, Joseph Dye, Jeremy Dye and Emily Mitchell. She was a member of the Edgefield Church of Christ. Memorial services are scheduled for noon Friday at the Laurel Land Memorial Chapel with the Rev. Clifton Rogers officiating. Interment will follow at Laurel Land Memorial Park: The family will receive visitors from 6 to 8 tonight at the funeral home.*

#### Children of William and Velvia Bennett Hardison

285	Esta Beatrice Hardison	1918	1978	Velvia and William Edward - Child #1
286	Louie Jolene Hardison	1923	2015	Velvia and William Edward - Child #2
287	Malcom Edward Hardison	1926	1989	Velvia and William Edward - Child #3

**285. Esta Beatrice Hardison** 19 FEB 1918 • Kirkland, TX - 1 JUL 1978 • Dallas, TX  
 Winfred Orval Dye 11 SEP 1917 • Tulia, TX - 30 AUG 1993 • Cartwright, OK  
 Marriage: about 1939



William and Velvia's first child arrived in 1918. I have detailed above her early years and the mysterious disappearance of her father after the birth of her youngest sister in 1926, so she would have been about 8 when her father died or ran off and had two little sisters that would have been 3 and newborn. The 1930 Census found the children living with their widowed mother and "widowed" grandmother. Sometime in the late 1930's when she was about 20 or 21, she married W. O. Dye who apparently went by Wink. He was born to Walter Orville and Stella Hager Dye in the Tulia about 6 months before Esta and had an older sister Claudia Dye Hooper and two younger brothers Birchard "Jack" and Ralph Othal

Dye. In 1940, they lived in Plainview and he worked as a deliveryman for the railroad while Esta was not working. The census shows that they were both high school graduates. I have not found their yearbooks.

In 1940, William registered for the WW2 Draft while living at 806 Denver in Plainview and working for the Railway Express Co. His point of contact was his boss William Stuckler who was in charge of the Fort Worth-Denver Station of the Railroad Express CO. He was 24-5'-10"-140lbs-hazel eyes-blond hair-light. It is not totally clear, but seems to be supported by some news articles, but there is a record for an enlistment on 12 Dec 1941 for an Orvil O Dye in Dallas who lived in Wichita, TX with serial number 38047255. Using that serial number yielded 4 records on various non-combat medical admission in 1944. I found several news articles that may have been Wick but it is confused by the fact that his father went by W. O. and there was a Warrant Officer Dye abbreviated as W. O. Dye that pop up a few times.

In the 1950 Census, they lived at 609 Elm Drive in Odessa and Wink was back working for the railroad. In Nov 1950, an article in the Odessa newspaper wrote that they were moving to Fort Worth. On 11 May 1951, their son Jerry Edwin Dye was born there, and the following year the paper reports that they were moving to Sherman, TX. After trying to sell their FW home themselves, they finally resorted to listing it.

*3214 DENMAN-OPEN FO-1232. REESE & CO. 3 TO 6.*

*Owner leaving city so take advantage of securing these 5 1/2-room red bricks, separate breakfast room, and service porch. piped for washer, wood-burning fireplace, 12 block east of 4700 Wichita.*

*Price and terms that will surprise you. FO-1339.*

Sadley in 1978, Esta got cervical cancer and died in Granville Morton Hospital in Dallas while living at 2919 W. Colorado in Dallas. She had been working as an accountant for a publishing firm. Wink was the informant. So far, I have not found an obituary, but at the time of her death, she was only 60 and their only son was 27.

Wink lived until 1993 and died in Dallas and was buried there. For some reason, Findagrave and his SSDI indicate that he died in Cartwright, OK, so maybe he had moved there with his son in his old age. I have not found his obituary, but he seems to have retired from the railroad.

Looking at son Jerry I found that he was at Texas A&M in 1971 where he was a member of the Parks and Recreation Club and did not seem to be in the Corp. He seems to have graduated from Sunset HS in Dallas in 1969 where he was on the swim team. He got married 1 Jun 1970 right after graduation to Jaqueline Jenkins who was a year behind him at Sunset HS and they had son Jerrid in Dallas on 22 Oct 1973 and another son Jeffrey on 9 Feb 1977 also in Dallas before divorcing in 1989. He married Mickie Hardin in 1993 in Hill County, TX probably Hillsboro. Mickie was born in 1954 and had married Roger Brumbley in 1972 and had two children before divorcing in 1982. Jerry was 41 and Mickie 39 when they married, so they probably did not have children together.

#### **Child of Esta and Wink Dye**

711	Jerry Edwin Dye	1951	Esta and Winfred Child
-----	-----------------	------	------------------------

---

**286. Louie Jolene Hardison** 12 FEB 1923 • Amarillo, TX - 31 JAN 2015 • McKinney,  
Harold Buerk 7 APRIL 1922 • Hamilton, OH - Death 7 FEB 2006 • McKinney, TX  
Marriage: 19 Apr 1945 – Gulfport, MS



William and Velvia's 2<sup>nd</sup> child arrived in time for Valentines Day 1923 in Amarillo, TX. She was raised without a father most of her life and appears either her other siblings in 1930. In 1932, she was in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade in Pampa, TX. In 1936, she shows up at a kid's party in Fort Worth. In 1939, she received an award at a summer camp she was attending while living in Olton. In 1940, Esta had married so it was just Velvia and little brother, Malcom (Fred) in 1940 along with a couple of lodgers, Fred Gordon a public-school teacher and Kenneth Straw, a pharmacist. Velvia was running the school cafeteria. They lived in Olton, a town south of Lubbock. She had finished her junior year of high school while Fred had finished his freshman year. Later records indicate that she graduated in 1941.

Meanwhile, his future husband, Harold Buerk had been growing up in Hamilton, OH where in 1930 his father was the superintendent of a coal yard and he had an older sister, Jane. His father, Christian Buerk was a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation German, while his mother, Maud Hans Buerk was an Ohio girl. In 1940, he registered for the WW2 Draft. He was 20 and had moved to Cincinnati, OH and was working for Cincinnati Bickford Tool Co. His father was his point of contact. He was 5'-8"-145lbs-blue eyes-blond hair-light. In Sept 1942, he went to Patterson Field in Dayton, OH and enlisted in the Army Air Corp. (Interestingly at about the same time, a Negro man with the same name enlisted at the same place.) In July 1943, he was an Aviation cadet in San Antonio. In Oct 1943 he began his basic flight training at Strother Field near Winfield, KS. In Feb 1944, he graduated from flight school as a fighter pilot and was commissioned as a 2LT. He was then sent to Blackland Field near Waco. His photo appeared in the Cincinnati newspaper. Somehow during all of this training, he met Jolene and in Apr 1945, they were married in Gulfport, MS. I have not found if he was deployed, but the war was still to last another year and a half after he was commissioned, so it is likely that he was.



Following the war, Harold and Jolene returned to Cincinnati where Harold completed his education at the University of Cincinnati with a degree in Business Administration in 1950. In 1948 in Cincinnati, their son Thomas was born in October and in the 1950 Census, they were still in Cincinnati and Harold was working as a bookkeeper for the telephone company. I haven't found exactly when they moved to Texas, but news from Cincinnati disappears after 1950, so it was probably in early 1951. In Feb 1958, their daughter Diane was born in Dallas.

After 1950, I need to start depending on children's records as there does not appear to be a good Dallas newspaper online. I did find this from the 1955 Dallas Directory *Buerk Jolene Mrs. ofc wkr S W Airmotive r930 Avon*. This comes from 1956 - *Buerk Harold (L Jolene) repr C & G Merriam Co h 930h Avon "I L Jolene Mrs. typist SW Airmotive h930h Avon* and in 1957 *Buerk Christian L (Maude) h2219 Berwick av # Harold (Jolene L) sls rep G & C Merriam Co h930 N Avon*. – This shows that his parents had joined their son in Dallas in 1957. The 1958 Directory notes that he had become a salesman for Swingline which is the famous stapler company.

In 1977, son Thomas married Carolyn Sue Hollaway in Fort Worth. I believe that Sue became an active genealogist and has posted many of the pictures that I am using for this family. Unfortunately, she died in 2019. She had previously married Odis Griffin in 1969. HE must have gone into the service because in 1973, they had a daughter, Carolyn in Fredericksburg, VA. Thomas adopted her and she took his surname.

Daughter Diane married Samuel Maxson in 1974. As I am writing this I have not found children, but obituaries may change that.

Harold died in 2006 in McKinney and his obituary reads:

**Harold Buerk**, 83 of McKinney, passed away Feb. 7, 2006 at his home with family by his side. He was born April 7, 1922, in Cincinnati, Ohio to Christian and Maud Buerk. On April 19, 1945 he married Jolene Hardison in Gulf Port, Miss. He served in the United States Army as a pilot from 1942 and was Honorably Discharged in 1945.

He attended the University of Cincinnati and graduated in the top ten of his graduating class in 1950 with a degree in Business Administration. He moved to Dallas in 1951 and was a Manufacturing Rep. and later became a Regional Manager in the Office Products Division for \Swingline Inc. He retired after 30 years and lived in Dallas for 40 years and then moved to McKinney in 1998. He was a member of Trinity Presbyterian Church in McKinney. He the belonged to the Adult Fellowship, Arthur McNeil's Sunday School Class, Lions Club, McKinney 5-Oh! Club, and delivered Meals on Wheels for Collin County Community on Aging.

His parents preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife, Jolene and son, Tom Buerk and his wife Sue of Fort Worth, daughter, Diane Maxson and her husband Sam of McKinney, three grandchildren; Chrissa Mitchell and her husband Mitch; Jesse Maxson and Cory Maxson; two great-grandchildren: Emily and Travis Mitchell; and sister, Jane Rogers of Dallas, and many relatives.

*A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Feb. 11 at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 5871 W. Virginia Pkwy., McKinney. Visitation is on Saturday, Feb. 11 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Laurel Land Funeral Memorial Park, 6000 S. R. L. Thornton Frwy, Dallas., with the grave side service at 3:30 p.m. with Reverend Patrick McCoy officiating.*

From this we learn that daughter Diane has had two children, Jesse and Cory and Thomas and Sue just had the one adopted daughter, Chrissa who is married. That led me to sons Jesse 1981 and Cory 1985.

Jolene died in McKinney in 2015 and her obituary reads:

**Jolene Buerk**, age 91, passed away January 31, 2015. She was a true inspiration to all and will be dearly missed. She is survived by her daughter, Diane Maxson and husband Sam; son, Tom Buerk and his wife Sue; Jesse Maxson and wife Jessica, Cory Maxson and wife Katie, grandchildren: Chrissa Mitchell and husband Mitch; great grandchildren: Jolene and Curtis, Emily and Travis. Donations in her memory may be made to American Cancer Society.

This obituary suggests that Jesse and Cory are both married and between the three children, there are 4 grandchildren.

Finally, Sue Hollaway Buerk died in 2019 and her obituary reads:

**KELLER - Carolyn Sue Holloway Buerk**, 71, of Keller, Texas passed peacefully from this world into the presence of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on July 19, 2019.

*From her birth on March 18, 1948 to her passing, she took pride in attending to the needs of people around her with love, laughter and unending generosity. Sue was born to Joe and Naomi Holloway in Abilene, Texas. She graduated from Merkel High school in 1966, and from Hardin Simmons University Magna Cum Laude in 1969. Sue was Vice President of Investments and Human Relations, and Corporate Secretary at National Farm Life Insurance Company in Fort Worth for 37 years. She took great pride in her work, loved her co-workers and positively impacted everyone she came into contact with.*

*Sue was dedicated to her family and friends. She always had kind words, a giving spirit, and a generous heart, taking care of the needs of others before her own. Sue loved her family whole heartedly and unconditionally, and they were the center of her world. She provided constant support and encouragement, praying without ceasing for her family and friends. She never missed an event or activity with her family, hosted countless family gatherings, and planned family vacations to the beach, which was her true happy place.*

*Sue was a charter member of the North Pointe Baptist Church in Hurst, TX, and an active member and Historian for the Charity Sunday School Class. Her most treasured role was being the best Mimi to her grandchildren, Emily and Travis, whom she adored.*

*Sue is survived by her husband of 42 years, Tom; their daughter, Chrissa Mitchell, her husband Bill, and grandchildren, Emily Mitchell and Travis Mitchell of Fort Worth, TX. She is also survived by her brother, Bill Holloway, and his wife Debby of Uvalde, TX, their children Amber Younts, Brooke Blake, and Crystal Rieff; sister-in-law Diane Maxson and her husband Sam of McKinney, TX, their children Jesse Maxson and Cory Maxson; numerous cousins, great nieces and great nephews; dear friend since 1st grade, Youlinda Hester Baxter of Hurst, TX, and many other family and friends.*

*Services are Thursday, July 25, 2019 at 11am at Rolling Oaks Funeral Home with burial to follow at 1pm in Bluebonnet Hills Memorial Park. Sue loved the beach, and always felt at peace there. To honor her memory, please wear blue or a Hawaiian shirt to the service. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the American Cancer Society or Community Hospice of Texas.*

### Children of Harold and Jolene Hardison Buerk

712	Thomas A Buerk	1949	Harold and Jolene Child#1
713	Diane Elaine Buerk	1958	Harold and Jolene Child#2

287. **Malcomb Eugene Hardison** 13 APR 1926 • Childress, TX - 20 SEP 1989 • Amarillo, TX  
 Dorothy M Boles 11 OCT 1927 • Kansas City, MO - 26 MAY 2008 • Amarillo, TX  
 Marriage: 1947 – Childress, TX



The final child born to William and Velvia was Malcomb who was born in 1926. By the time his first census rolled around in 1930, his father was already dead, so he would probably have had no memory of him.

He was at home with his mother and sister in 1940. He was born late enough that he was just on the cusp of having been old enough to get called up for WW2. He registered for the draft in 1944 when he turned 18 at which time he was living in Childress and unemployed. His point of contact was Clarence Harp and he was 5'-9"- 150lbs-blue eyes-brown hair-ruddy. It does not appear that he served in the armed forces. In 1947 he married Dorothy Boles, a young lady who had been born in Kansas City in 1927. Her father, Earl was from Arkansas and her mother Mary Knox was from Kansas. In 1930 her father worked on a steam railroad, and in 1940 they had moved to Childress and opened a watch shop where Earl and Mary both worked. She had a younger brother, Robert.

In the 1950 Census, Malcomb and Dorothy appear in Childress living next door to Dorothy's parents and he was driving a delivery truck and making sales for a soft water service. His name appeared on the line for additional info and it noted that he had only completed his Jr year of high school.

From City Directories, I learn that by 1952 they had moved to Amarillo and Malcomb was working as a driver for Amarillo Hardware and he was still doing that in 1960 after which time no more directories are available and I have been unable to find any news accounts. He died in Sep 1989 and I have not an obituary. Dorothy died in 2008 and her obituary reads:

*Amarillo Globe-News (TX) - Thursday, May 29, 2008*

**Dorothy Hardison**, 80, of Amarillo died Monday, May 26, 2008. Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday in Rector Funeral Home Osage Chapel, 2800 S. Osage St., with Dr. Chester O'Brien officiating. Burial will be in Memorial Park Cemetery.

*Mrs. Hardison was born Oct. 11, 1927, in Kansas City, Mo., to Earl and Mary Knox Boles. She graduated from Childress High School and moved to Amarillo in 1950 from Childress.*

*Mrs. Hardison was a homemaker and a devoted Christian. She was a longtime member of First Baptist Church. She married Malcolm Hardison in 1947 in Childress. He died in 1990. Survivors include a cousin, Peggy Gurn of Amarillo; and her beloved dog, Lucky.*

They had no children and her only brother Robert died in 1970 of a heart attack when he was only 40 leaving his wife Jolene Pryor Boles and a daughter Brenda Jo. Jolene then died young of illness in 1986 when Brenda was 51. Brenda married Gerald McChesney in 1974 and had three children before dying in a car wreck in 1988 only two years after her mother. Tough family.

---

This ends Velvia's family and I will jump down and finish her siblings

---

**95. Unknown Bennett** About 1899-1900 – see explanation above

---



**96. Minnie Bennett** 22 APR 1903 • Houston, TX - 17 AUG 1988 • Pilot Point, TX

Emmett Steve Vaughn 4 APRIL 1899 • Navarro, TX (or Johnson County) - 2 DEC 1988 • Plano, TX

Married: about 1923 – probably Childress



Photo of Minnie from Sue Buerk – Grave marker from Findagrave

Minnie was the 3rd child born to Summie and Cora on 22 April 1903 allegedly in Houston, though I have trouble placing the family anywhere near Houston during this period. In 1900 her parents were in Bell County and in 1910 they were in Motley County so a detour to Houston in 1903 seems implausible. She appears with her parents in Motley in 1910 and in Childress in 1920. Probably in early 1924 (based on the birthdate of their son) Donald Maurice Vaughn in Dec 1924, she married Emmett Steve Vaughn. At that time Emmett was working as a machinist for the railroad. I'm uncertain how Steve got out to Childress in 1924 but maybe his job with the railroad took him there. He was found in 1917 when he registered for the draft in Burleson, Johnson County, TX which is just south of Fort Worth, TX. He was farming for M. D. Thornton and listed his mother Anna as his point of contact. He was medium height and build with blue eyes and light hair. I have not found him in the 1920 Census, but per the 1930 Census he was not a veteran. He was the 5<sup>th</sup> of 9 children born to Alonzo and Anna Ralph Vaughn who were both from Tennessee and had arrived in Texas about 1891 after passing briefly through Arkansas where their first child was born. Since they were in Navarro in 1900 and Emmett was one year old, I suspect that he was born there, though he claims that he was born in Johnson County. I have not been able to find him in the 1920 Census, but he and Minnie appear in 1930 in Olton TX which is way out in the Panhandle. He is a laborer doing odd jobs and he is 29, Minnie is 26 and they have been married 6 years implying a 1924 marriage. They do not live on a farm and no address is given. They are paying \$15/month rent and he was not a veteran.

Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head or Rented	Home Owned Home Value	Radio Set	Lives on Farm	Gender	Race	Age	Year	d Birth	Marital Status	First Marriage	Attended and School	Write	Birthplace	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Occupation	
1930 Census		Olton, Lamb, Texas																	
Vaughn	E S	Head	Rented	15	No	No	Male	White	29	1901	Married		23	No	Yes	Texas	Tennessee	Tennessee	Laborer
Vaughn	Minnie	Wife					Female	White	26	1904	Married		20	No	Yes	Texas	Texas	Texas	
Vaughn	Don	Son					Male	White	5	1925	Single			No		Texas	Texas	Texas	

The 1940 Census found Emmett, Minnie, and son Donald in Earth, TX a small-town northeast of Lubbock toward Muleshoe. They have opened a café and Emmett is running it and Minnie is helping out as the waitress. They were renting their home for \$20/month. We see that Emmett had only gone through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, while Minnie was a high school graduate. Don at 15 had finished 6<sup>th</sup> grade. That seems to be a few grades less than where he should have been at that age.

Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head of House	Gender	Race	Age	Birth Year	Marital Status	Attended School	Highest Grade Completed	Birthplace	on Farm	Occupation
1940 Census		Lamb, Texas	Rented		20							
Vaughn	Emmett S	Head	Male	White	42	1898	Married	No	Elementary school, 7th grade	Texas	No	Proprietor
Vaughn	Minnie B	Wife	Female	White	40	1903	Married	No	High School, 4th year	Texas		Waitress
Vaughn	Donald M	Son	Male	White	15	1925	Single	Yes	Elementary school, 6th grade	Texas		

Sometime after the 1940 Census, they seem to have upgraded their café business by renting a place in Dumas TX that per newspaper articles was called The Palm Café on Hwy 87 and Hwy 287 facing east. That is the main intersection in Dumas. *A bit of trivia for your enjoyment - The Dumas government claims, with some documentation, that the song "I'm a Ding Dong Daddy From Dumas" was written about the city.* Other news articles indicate that in 1948, Emmett was trying to sell the restaurant because “he needed a rest.” As of 1950, he had not yet sold it and other articles refer to a bowling team that was sponsored by the café.

When he registered for the WW2 Old Man's Draft in 1942, he had not yet made the move to Dumas and was still running his first café in Earth. He was 42 and 5'-11"-147lbs-blue eyes-brown hair and light complexion. Their address was simply Earth, TX. Their son turned 18 in 1942 and he also registered for the draft and claimed to be working on his father's farm which seems to suggest that in addition to his café, Emmett and Minnie owned some property. I will cover it in more detail in the next generation, but Donald enlisted in the Navy in 1943 and served aboard the USS Idaho which will be a very exciting story to read as they served in all of the major Pacific campaigns during the war. Upon his return he married Ellen Sue McCarty in 1946 and they had a son, Donald in 1948. They were living with Emmett and Minnie in 1950. Emmett had not yet sold his café so I guess he still needed a rest. In a report about Donald in 1945, Emmett and Minnie were reported to be living in Littlefield so maybe it was after the war that Emmitt bough The Palm Café as Littlefield is down near Earth. They lived at 212 E. 1<sup>st</sup> in Dumas which is now occupied by Memorial Hospital. Emmitt's father died in 1942.

Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head of House	Race	Gender	Age	Birth Date	Marital Status	Birth Place	Citizenship	Hours Worked	Occupation	Industry
1950 Census	212 East 1st	Dumas, Moore, Texas, USA										
Vaughn	Emmet S	Head	White	Male	51	1899	Married	Texas		140	Manager	Cafe
Vaughn	Minnie B	Wife	White	Female	46	1904	Married	Texas		105	Cashier	Cafe
Vaughn	Don M	Son	White	Male	25	1925	Married	Texas				
Vaughn	E Sue	[Daughter-in-law]	[White]	[Female]	23	1927	Married	Texas				
Vaughn	Donald S	Grandson	White	Male	2	1948	Never Married	(Texas				

Sources fade as usual after 1950. It appears that Don and E. Sue had at least 3 additional children in 1953, 1956, and 1958. I will dig into that in the next generation.

I have not found obituaries for either Emmett or Minnie but their death records indicate that Minnie died in Pilot Point, Tx in Aug 1988 and then Emmett died in either Rockwall or Plano in December of the same year. Minnie was 85 when she died and Emmett was 89. It's unclear if they split up later in life or perhaps were living with separate grandchildren. Perhaps the next generation will bring some clarification.

### Child of Minnie Bennet and Emmett Vaughn.

288 Donald Maurice Vaughn 1924 2013 Minnie and Emmett Child#1

288. Donald Maurice Vaughn 7 DEC 1924 • Childress, TX - 10 FEB 2013 • Canyon, TX

Ella Sue McCarty 3 OCT 1927 • Abilene, TX - 7 SEP 2010 • Amarillo, TX

Marriage; 25 Oct 1946 – Amarillo, TX



I haven't found a photo of Donald, but here is Ella from Ancestry.

Donald was the only child born to Minnie and Emmett Vaugh. He arrived on 7 Dec 1924 and the Japanese would celebrate his birthday 17 years later by bombing Pearl Harbor. He appears in Olton, TX in 1930 where his father is doing odd jobs and then again in 1940 in Earth, TX at age 15 where his parents are running a café. He has only completed 6<sup>th</sup> grade which suggests that he may have dropped out of school. In Dec 1942, he registered for the WW2 Draft having just turned 18. He indicated that he was working on his father's farm and his point of contact was his friend Michael Kelley. He was 5'-11"-158lbs-hazel eyes-brown hair-light. For some reason he had a scar on the right side of his skull and a large scar on his back.

He enlisted in the Navy shortly thereafter with service number 8409389 and there are a lot of Navy Muster records for him on Fold3. He may have enlisted in Lubbock in 1943, but in Sep 1943, he was aboard the USS Idaho. A news article from Jun 1945 described his participation in the invasion of Okinawa by providing Naval support from his ship. Here is the ship's history. A highlight is: *She shelled Japanese forces during the Gilbert and Marshall Islands and the Philippines campaigns and the invasions of Peleliu, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. Idaho was among the ships present in Tokyo Bay when Japan formally surrendered on 2 September 1945. With the war over, the ship was decommissioned in July 1946.*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS\\_Idaho\\_\(BB-42\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Idaho_(BB-42))

I haven't found his dates of service but he probably came back to the US after the war bringing his ship home to be decommissioned. Shortly thereafter, He and Ella got married. On 27 Nov 1947, their first child, Donald Steve Vaughn was born in Amarillo. In 1950, he and his wife and son were living with his parents in Dumas. He did not a job listed but may have been helping out at the restaurant. Three more children followed after 1950 to include: Sherry Lynn Vaughn 1953, Billie Kay Vaughn 1956, and Pamela Jean Vaughn 1958. All were born in Deaf Smith County which is west of Amarillo next to New Mexico and the home of Hereford, TX. There are entries for a Don Vaughn in Amarillo in 1951 and 1950 where he was a city policeman in 1951 and a fish salesman in 1952. I haven't found anything after that. Let's explore the children for clues.

Son Donald Steven was born in 1947 and died in Dallas in 1991. I have not found a marriage or obituary for him so he is a mystery.

Sherry graduated from Amarillo HS in 1971 and married Rodney Mayes in 1975 in Amarillo and they had a son Nickalus Wade in 1977.

Daughter Billie Kay graduated from Palo Duro HS in 1973 and in 1975 married Michael Lamberson. They had a son Steven Michael in 1981 before divorcing in 2006.

Daughter Pamela is a little more complicated. There was a news article about her upcoming married to David Dunn in 1977, but I don't think that it ever took place. She had a child with an unknown father named Christopher Scott Vaughn who only lived 10 days. At last count in 1984 when she was 36, she married 19-year-old Jud Wayne Atchley. Later reports have her named as Pamela Shiptlet so I'm not sure what it going on with her.

Ella died in 2010 and her obituary reads:

***Ella Sue Vaughn, 82, of Amarillo died Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2010.***

*Memorial services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday in Pleasant Valley Baptist Church with the Rev. Roger Smith, pastor, officiating.*

*Mrs. Vaughn was born Oct. 3, 1927, in Abilene to Brown and Mayme McCarty. She lived in Amarillo for more than 50 years and owned and operated Pennant Drive-In.*

*Survivors include three daughters, Sherry Mayes and husband Rodney, Billie Lamberson, and Pamela Atchley and husband Judd, all of Amarillo; a brother, Marvin McCarty and wife Olivia of Kansas; six grandchildren, Catina Mayes, Nick Mayes, Steven Lamberson, Robert Lamberson, Deiree Shiptlet and Andy Justus; and five great-grandchildren.*

*The family suggests memorials be to BSA Hospice, P.O. Box 950, Amarillo, TX 79105.*

This suggests that as previously noted, Sherry and Rodney were still married and had two children, Catina and Nick. Billie is divorced, but must have had two sons before her divorce, Steven and Robert. Pamela must have married someone named Shiptlet before she married Judd and had a daughter Deiree from that marriage. I don't know who Andy Justus is unless he is a child of the mysterious Donald.

#### **Children of Donald and Ella McCarty Vaughn**

714	Donald Steve Vaughn	1947	1991	Donald and Sue's Child#1
715	Sherry Lynn Vaughn	1953		Donald and Sue's Child#2
716	Billie Kay Vaughn	1956		Donald and Sue's Child#3
717	Pamela Jean Vaughn	1958		Donald and Sue's Child#4

---

This completes the study of the Minnie and Emmett Vaughn Family.

**97. Summie Lawson Bennett** 21 APR 1906 • Bartlett, TX - 3 DEC 1981 • Austin, TX

#1 Olive Lucille Brown 16 OCT 1906 • Texas - 4 JAN 1994 • Randall County, TX

Married: About 1925 – Texas based on birth of first child and 1930 Census

#2 Beulah Lee Tilly 5 SEP 1919 • Arkansas - 19 MAY 2006 • Georgetown

Marriage: 4 Apr 1946 • Deaf Smith, TX



Summie from Findagrave.  
Olive from Ancestry, Beulah's  
grave marker from Findagrave.

Summie was the third child and first son born to Cora and Summie. He arrived on 21 Apr 1906 in Bartlett which seems reasonable based on his parent's location. That is near Georgetown, TX. As I start this, I'm going to throw up a bit of caution. Summie's children with Olive seemed to have been born to be bad as you will see, but history is history and we have to live with what happened.

Summie appears at his parent's home in 1910 and 1920, first in Bartlett and then in Motley. In 1925, probably in Childress, he married Olive Brown. As I got to investigating be, it all of a sudden struck me that the Brown name had appeared before when I was studying his older sister, Velvia and the fact there her husband's stepfather was "Turk" Brown. As I continued to dig, I discovered that "Turk" had a son Hardy Brown from his first marriage to Sarah Blanchard. Hardy had married Margaret Lemon and Olive was their oldest child. She had two younger sisters, Mona and Mary and three younger brothers, Bill Beebe, and Hardy. They began their family with the arrival of Billy Jack Bennett in 1927 and Peggy Joyce Bennett in 1929. The 1930 Census found them living near his mother in Motley, and this was the period when his father and Velvia's husband disappeared. They had been married 5 years and Olive's brother Bill was living with them. This may be related to the fact that her father died in 1928 and her mother had married Paul Bridgewater and moved to Tulsa. They were renting farmland and did not have a radio.

Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head	Home Owned or Rented	Home Value	Radio Set	Lives on Farm	Gender	Race	Age	Year	Marital Status	First Marriage	Attended School	Write	Birthplace	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Occupation
1930 Census																		
Bennett	Summie L	Head	Rented		No	Yes	Male	White	24	1906	Married		19	No	Yes	Texas	Texas	Texas
Bennett	Ollie	Wife					Female	White	21	1909	Married		17	No	Yes	Texas	Texas	Farmer
Bennett	Billie J	Son					Male	White	2	1928	Single			No		Texas	Texas	Texas
Bennett	Peggie J	Daughter					Female	White	0	1930	Single			No		Texas	Texas	Texas
Brown	Bill	Brother-in-law				Yes	Male	White	14	1916	Single			Yes	Yes	Texas	Texas	Texas

In 1940, they were in Lamb County, probably Earth where his sister lived and still farming and hopefully eating at Minnie and Emmet's café. They had a daughter, Cora Catherine who was born in 1933, but she died in Mar 1934. Son Joe Bob Bennett had arrived in 1935 to join Billy Jack and Peggy who were 7 and 6 when he arrived. They were working their way through school. They were still renting farmland. You can see everyone's academic achievements below.

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
1940 Census												
Bennett	S L	Head	Male	White	33	1906	Married	No	High School, 3rd year	Texas	Yes	Farmer
Bennett	Ollie	Wife	Female	White	31	1909	Married	No	High School, 2nd year	Texas		
Bennett	Billie Jack	Son	Male	White	12	1928	Single	Yes	Elementary school, 6th grade	Texas		
Bennett	Peggy Joyce	Daughter	Female	White	10	1930	Single	Yes	Elementary school, 3rd grade	Texas		
Bennett	Joe Bob	Son	Male	White	5	1938	Single	Yes		Texas		

In 1940, Summie registered for the WW2 Draft. I don't know what the cutoff was for the Old Man's Draft, but he was 34 and living in Olton and still farming. He was 6'-0" – 170lbs – brown eyes – black hair and dark complexion. Before Summie and Olive split, they had one more son, Summie Rex who was born Dec 1943. In 1945, son Billy Jack reached 18 and registered while working in Kermit, TX for Noble Drilling. He mentioned that he had a crooked left arm from an old fracture. Sometime during this period,



he and Olive separated in and 1946, he married Beulah Tilly Boyles who I don't have a lot of information on except that she seemed to be the youngest daughter of Columbus and Rosa Tilly from Arkansas and she had married a Charly Boyles in Oklahoma in 1935 and they had a son Jerry in 1941. After their marriage, and Beulah had a son Mickey Lawson in July 1946. Joe Bob, Jim Rex, and Mickey along with stepbrother Jerry Boyles all appear with Summie and Beulah in Pleasanton where Summie is driving a road grader for a construction company. Billy Jack had married Verda Ross in 1944 and then got into trouble and the 1950 Census found him as a guest of the State of Texas in the penitentiary at Huntsville. I haven't found the cause of this initial incarceration, but it goes downhill from there.

Olive appears in Amarillo in 1950 with her daughter Peggy who seems to have married Elmer Ray Green in 1944 and divorced and then married Clyde Mote before 1950. Olive seems to have taken in a ward, Anna Van Meter who was born in Illinois in 1933. I have not been able to discover anything about her.

Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head of House	Race	Gender	Age	Birth Date	Marital Status	Birth Place	Citizenship	Hours Worked	Occupation	Industry
1950 Census	Start N W	Corner Block 66 Goi Wa	5			Pleasanton, Atascosa, Texas, USA						
Bennett	Summie L	Head	White	Male	42	1908	Married	Texas		40	Maintainer Operate	Construction Co
Bennett	Beulah	Wife	White	Female	30	1920	Married	Arkansas				
Bennett	Joe B	Son	White	Male	15	1938	Never Married	(Texas				
Bennett	Rex	Son	White	Male	7	1943	Never Married	(Texas				
Bennett	Jerry D				9	1941	Never Married	(Texas				
Bennett	Mickey	Son	White	Male	3	1947	Never Married	(Texas				
Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head of House	Race	Gender	Age	Birth Date	Marital Status	Birth Place	Citizenship	Hours Worked	Occupation	Industry
1950 Census	4200 E 14th Ave		Amarillo, Randall, Texas, USA									
Mote	Curtis F	Head	White	Male	24	1926	Married	Texas				
Mote	Peggy J	Wife	White	Female	20	1930	Married	Texas				
Bennett	Ollie	Mother-in-law	White	Female	42	1908	Divorced	Texas		54	Cook	Drive Inn
Van Meter	Anna M	Woia Eins Mard	White	Female	17	1933	Never Married	(Illinois		48	Waitress	Drive Inn

There seems to have been a lot of activity for Summie after 1950. First, he and Beulah had two more sons, Danny Ray Bennett in 1954 who only lived 4 days and then Dickie Joe Bennett in 1957. Both of these children were born in Austin. I'm not sure what job Summie was doing at that time, but probably road construction. I will just briefly touch on it here and go into more detail in the next generation, but Billy Jack seems to have gotten out of prison around 1951 and promptly went on a crime spree with his sister's husband, Curtis Molt. He got sent back to prison for that, and then in 1969 he was out again and getting his little brother Joe Bob involved in crime. He finally married an Oklahoma girl, Mable Moser and settled down.

Peggy who had married Elmer Greene in 1944 and then Curtis Mote before 1950 finally found a keeper in 1953 when she married Gerald Gurn. She seems to have had at least two children.

Joe Bob married several times before getting led astray by his big brother in 1969, but finally settled down and married Juanita Davis and lived in Amarillo until his death.

Summie Rex took after his big brother and in 1968 was sentenced to life in prison in 1968 for being a habitual criminal after 3 felony convictions. The last article I have found about him was from 1976 when

**BENNETT, Sonny**, of Austin, died Thursday. Services 2 p.m. Saturday at Cook-Walden Funeral Home. Survivors: wife, Beulah L. Bennett of Austin; sons, Jack Bennett of Binger, Okla., Joe Bob Bennett, Sonny Rex Bennett, both of Amarillo, Mickey Bennett, Jerry Boyles, both of Zapata, Dickey Bennett of Austin, Harlan Boyle of Houston; daughters, Peggy Gurn, Carolyn Bennett, both of Amarillo; sisters, Eloyce Smith of Olton, Velvia Hardison of Dallas, Mary Patrick of San Antonio, Minnie Vaughn of Hereford; 11 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren.

he was still appealing his sentence. Mickie married several times and seems to have had a couple of children. He seems to have spent a lot of time as a hunting guide and died in Rockport in 2013.

The youngest, Dickie seems to have married Clarissa Schiller in 1985 in Austin and I have not yet fully researched them. They seem to have at least two children.

Summie died in Austin on 3 Dec 1981. They couldn't get

his name right in his obituary!

I do need to insert a story here about Olive. As I mentioned, her father died in 1928 and her mother remarried a P. A. Bridgewater. Her next two younger sisters, Mona and Mary had both married and had 5 children between them before 1940. Mona got divorced before 1950 and Mona, Mary and her husband Lloyd Jenkins, and her mother were in Galveston in Sep 1950, and Mary's son was driving a car with all of the family in it, and both Mona and Mary were killed. Their mother was seriously injured, but recovered.

Olive died in Amarillo in 1994 at age 87. I think that she probably bore the brunt of raising Joe Bob and Summie Rex. Although they were with their father in 1950, I saw an article from 1957 in Amarillo when Summie was declared a delinquent. She does not appear to ever have remarried.

Beulah died in Georgetown on 19 May 2006. Her obituary is not too informative.

**BENNETT, Beulah Lee, 86, home-maker, of Georgetown died Friday. Services 11 a.m. Tuesday, Cook-Walden/Capital Parks Cemetery, Pflugerville. Arrangements by the Gabriels, Georgetown.**

#### **Children of Summie Bennet and his two wives Olive Brown and Beulah Tilly**

289	Billy Jack Bennett	1927	1985	Summie and Olive Child#1
290	Peggy Joyce Bennett	1929	2018	Summie and Olive Child#2
291	Cora Catherine Bennett	1933	1934	Summie and Olive Child#3
292	Joe Bob Bennett	1938	2001	Summie and Olive Child#4
293	Summie Rex Bennett	1943	2017	Summie and Olive Child#5
294	Carolyn Bennett	1945	2021	Summie and Olive Child#6
295	Mickey Bennett	1946		Summie and Beulah Child#1
296	Danny Ray Bennett	1954	1954	Summie and Beulah Child#2
297	Dickie Joe Bennett	1957		Summie and Beulah Child#3

**289. Billy Jack Bennett** 21 OCT 1927 • Childress, TX - 4 SEP 1985 • Binger, OK

#1 Verda Marie Ross 4 AUG 1928 • Hale Center, TX - 18 OCT 2015 • Plainview, TX

Marriage: 26 Nov 1944 • Gaines, TX – Divorce early 1950's

#2 Myrtle Virginia Killian 9 JUN 1928 • Arkansas - 22 DEC 2014 • Anchorage, AK

Marriage: 7 Mar 1968 • Hutchinson, TX

#3 Mable Marie Moser 4 NOV 1922 • Binger Caddo, OK - 21 AUGUST 2007 • Binger, OK

Marriage: 26 Sep 1976 per grave marker.



Billy and his third wife's grave marker. His first wife Verda.

This is going to be a little different story. I'm going to get the regular discussion out of the way and then launch into a lengthy newspaper study of stories I have found about Billy Jack. He was born in Childress right before

Halloween in 1927. He appears in the 1930 Census with his parents who were 19 and 17 and already had two children. Additionally, one of his mother's brothers is with them after their father had been murdered.

In the 1940 Census, his parents had miraculously aged 15 and 14 years respectively. They had moved to Olton and added a son and his uncle was still living with them. They had lost a daughter, Cora in 1934 who was 3 ½ months old. In Oct 1945 when he was 18, he registered for the draft even though the war had just ended. He had gotten married a year earlier when he was 17 to Verda Ross. He was working for Noble Drilling out of Tulsa and staying at the Kermit Hotel. His mother in Plainview was his point of contact. He was 5'-7" -148lbs-blue eyes-brown hair-ruddy. He had a crooked arm from it having been broken and not healing correctly. Verda was the youngest of three children born to William T. Ross and Lettie Warren Ross. Her father was a real estate agent born in Texas while her mother was from Oklahoma. Her father

died in 1933 when she was only 5. In 1940, her two older siblings had married and she and her widowed mother were renting a room from the local school librarian.

In Sep 1946 a daughter Linda Kaye Bennett was born in Kermit and was followed by Gary Norman Bennett in Jan 1948 in Plainview. Unfortunately, probably while Verda was pregnant with Gary, Billy Jack embarked on a life of crime which I will detail below. In the 1950 Census, he was in prison at Huntsville while Verda and the children had moved in with her mother in Plainview where Verda was working as a waitress. I wonder if it was at the Bennett's café? Her mother was a nurse. In 1951, Verda had the marriage annulled and sometime before 1957 she married John Cornell Moody and they had a daughter Joni Suzette Moody in 1957.

Let's go through Billy Jack's next few years in an extended series of news clippings that I have found about him and his brother and his brother-in-law, Curtis Floyd Mote who I will discuss more later. With all of his jail time, I am surprised that I have not found a mugshot somewhere.

4 Mar 1948 – Kermit News - MAN WANTED ON SWINDLING CHARGE TO BE BROUGHT HERE Deputy Sheriff L. L. Grey is to go to Santa Fe, N.M., to pick-up **Billy Jack Bennett** who is wanted here on grand jury indictment on charges of swindling with a worthless check, according to Sheriff L. B. Eddins. Bennett is completing a prison sentence in New Mexico, Sheriff Eddins stated.

7 Oct 1951- Abilene Reporter –Suspect Held In Snyder, Lamesa Crimes  
SNYDER. Oct. 6. (RNS) – **Billy Jack Bennett**, 23, signed statements before the Dawson County district attorney Friday concerning two robberies here and one at Lamesa, said Bob Davie, 132d District Attorney here.

Bennett; who has two previous felony convictions, is charged with robbing the Snyder Western Union office of \$99.50 in American Express Travelers checks June 27, and with the July 30 robbery of the Sunbeam Cash Food Market here. In that burglary \$1,496 in cash and about \$4,000 in checks was taken.

Bennett also is charged with robbing the Lamesa Western Union office May 7 of \$643.70 in cash and \$930 in American Express Travelers checks.

Davie said Bennett was on parole from the state penitentiary to Lamb County officers at the time of the robberies. He was serving a sentence on a felony forgery, Davie said.

8 Oct 1951 - Abilene Reporter – 2 Accused Robbers Escape Lamesa Jail  
LAMESA. Oct. 8. (A - Men listed as **Billy Jack Bennett**, 23, and **Curtis Floyd**, 25, escaped from the Dawson County jail early today Sheriff Roy King said the pair being held on robbery charges, apparently worked the combination on the lock and sawed their way out of the runaround. Bennett was charged with robberies at Snyder and Lamesa.

Oct 20, 1951 San Angelo, Texas • Dawson Jailbreaker's Wife Asks Annulment  
Mrs. **Billy Jack Bennett**, 20, whose husband is charged with the robbery of \$7,219.20 from businesses in Lamesa and Snyder, filed suit for annulment in 51st District Court here Friday. In an affidavit for citation by publication, Mrs. Bennett swore that she has not seen her husband since his daring escape with another prisoner from Dawson County jail, Lamesa, on Oct. 8.

Atty. William C. McDonald, representing the plaintiff, said Mrs. Bennett is from "an old San Angelo family." Mrs. Bennett's petition alleges that at the time of their marriage, last Aug. 17, Bennett "represented himself as an upright and law-abiding citizen." Shortly afterward, the bill continues, Bennett informed his wife that he was a felon, having been convicted and sentenced for forgery, though since paroled. *(This woman may actually be a different wife than Verda because it says she was from San Angelo, and Verda was not and Billy Jack was not a felon when she married Billy Jack)*

The petition asks that a divorce be granted in the event an annulment is refused, on the grounds that "the plaintiff is a girl of tender years and unaccustomed to the ways of the criminal and was misled into the marriage."

5 Oct 1951 - **Bennett**, 26, was arrested Oct. 5 and imprisoned at Lamesa. Bob Davie, 132nd District attorney, said Bennett signed a statement admitted robbery of Western Union offices in Lamesa and Snyder and the Sunbeam Cash Food Market in Snyder.

Three days later, Bennett escaped by sawing the bars of his cell, picking the locks on two prison doors and driving off in a stolen 1951 Studebaker sedan. Efforts to recapture him have failed.

The arrest of a 25-year-old former jail inmate at Amarillo, Tex., has solved two panhandle break-ins during late October. **Curtis Floyd Mote**, 25, told Amarillo detectives that he and his partner, Billy Jack Bennett, 23, broke open a safe in the Western Union office at Morrill and took about \$1,000 in express checks on Oct. 16 and conducted a similar burglary at Chadron on Oct. 31.

Mote said he and his companion later separated in Michigan.

#### Is Wanted Elsewhere

Scotts Bluff CO County Sheriff Steve Warrick said Saturday that he will place a hold order on Mote, but chances of having him brought here to face charges are remote. The man has been turned over to the federal authorities because of the stolen car he drove into Texas. He is also wanted by authorities at Lamesa, Tex., where he and Bennett escaped from jail Sept. 8. Bennett has not been located.

Mote also admitted that the pair had robbed Western Union offices in Snyder, Tex., and Douglas, Wyo.

Nov 22, 1951 - Chadron, Nebraska

#### Texas Youth Apprehended After Crime Tour; Robbed Safe Here

At least one of Chadron's safecracking jobs was solved this past week when **Curtis Floyd Mote** of Amarillo, Tex., 25, was picked up by the FBI on a federal charge and admitted robbing Western Union offices at both Chadron and Morrill, Neb. The Western Union office at Chadron was cracked the night of October 30 and about \$1,000 in travelers' checks was taken from the safe.

The FBI came into the picture when Mote and a companion named by him as **Billy Jack Bennett**, robbed a post office at Pakistan, S. D. The federal charge takes precedent and Mote will face charges first in South Dakota.

The escapades of the two youths, according to Mote's statement at Amarillo to authorities began on October 8 when he and Bennett stole a new car parked in front of a hospital at Lamesa, Tex., in which they traveled thru Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado and back to Kansas City, Mo., where it was wrecked. It had a Wyoming license on it when wrecked.

The pair while making this tour, robbed the Morrill, Neb. Western Union office of about \$1,100 in American Express Company Travelers checks which they cashed in Kansas.

4 Dec 1954 - Abilene Reporter - A 26-year-old Olton man, **Billy Jack Bennett**, now serving time in a federal penitentiary was re-indicted on charges of burglarizing the Sunbeam Cash Food Market here July 30, 1951. The indictment substitutes for one returned against him Oct. 12, 1951, after being charged with burglarizing the Western Union office here.

18 Aug 1955 - Graham Leader - Austin Man Charged With Burglary An Austin man, **Billy Jack Bennett**, 27, was arrested by Texas Rangers in Austin Friday, on charges of burglary in connection with the burglary of Morrison's Department Store last Tuesday. The charges were filed by Sheriff John Edwards.

Judge Dan Orr, Justice of the Peace, set bond at \$4,000 after Bennett was returned to this city Saturday night. He had failed to make bond today. Sheriff Edwards said a felony complaint had been filed against Bennett by Sheriff Wesley Styles of Seymour, in connection with a burglary in that city last week. Bennett's brother, **Joe Bob Bennett** (Billy Jack's younger brother) also charged with burglary, had not been apprehended. However, a nationwide description has been sent to police and sheriff's offices. The search is now concentrated in the West and Northwest areas of the United States.

Abilene Reporter 31 Aug 1955 - **2 Men Flee Snyder Jail; Bloodhounds Lose Trail**  
**SNYDER, Aug. 30 (RNS)-**

Bloodhounds and more than a score of police officers were searching this West Texas area Tuesday night for two men, one of them an ex-convict, who broke out of the Scurry County jail about noon Tuesday.

The men, **Billy Jack Bennett**, 27, of Olton, and Richard Crawford, about 32, of the Lubbock area, sawed the hasp off their cell door and walked to freedom through the unlocked main door of the cell block. Their escape was discovered about 12:30 p.m. by a trusty, Anderson Davis Sr., who notified city police. A hunt was launched immediately, but no trail was picked up until the arrival of bloodhounds from Big Spring,



brought by A. F. Mitchell, T&P railroad detective. Officers said the bloodhounds headed directly into Deep Creek, which passes a short distance from the jail, and turned southeast down the creek. Police reported Tuesday afternoon that the search was concentrated on the area immediately surrounding the city dump, southeast of Snyder.

At 8:30 p.m., police reported that a 1954 Bel Aire two-tone green Chevrolet, license number FD1726, was reported stolen by Alvin H. Durden of Ira. Durden said when the car ran out of gasoline near the Lemmons Camp, six miles west of Snyder, he parked it and walked on to work. When he returned sometime after 5 p.m., the car was gone, empty fuel tank and all.

Police theorized that the escapees may have acquired gasoline for the car and driven it away. When the report was received, bloodhounds and articles of clothing belonging to the two men were carried to the scene of the theft, in an effort to pick up a new trail. Prior to that time, the escapees' trail had given out in a dry wash near the city dump and the dogs were unable to pick up the trail in the afternoon heat. Snyder police, who are directing the search under the leadership of Walter Suttle, chief of police, have set up road blocks on all traffic arteries leaving Snyder and have warned motorists in the area not to pick up hitchhikers until the escapees are apprehended.

Bennett was being detained under indictment on charges of burglary. He is 5 feet, 10 inches tall, weighs about 165 pounds, has a dark complexion, and at the time of his escape was believed to be wearing a khaki shirt and trousers.

Bennett was reported to have been involved in a similar jail break in Lamesa in 1951, where he was being held on suspicion in connection with a break-in at the Western Union office in Lamesa. Crawford is reportedly from the Lubbock area, and was in jail under indictment on a charge of felony theft. He is about 5 feet, 11 inches tall, weighs about 165, and has a light complexion. Both men have been working in the oil fields around Snyder for some time, it was reported. Officers said they believed neither man was armed.

Some 25 or 30 Snyder policemen and deputies, highway patrolmen and sheriff's deputies from several surrounding towns joined the hunt for the two men.

Snyder Escapees at Large; Missing Auto Not Stolen

Abeline News 1 Sep 1955 - SNYDER, Aug. 31-Two men who escaped from the Scurry County jail were still at large Wednesday night, though a state-wide although a state-wide alarm had been broadcast for them. Ex-convict **Billy Jack Bennett**, 27, of Olton, and his companion, Richard Crawford, about 32, of the Lubbock area, broke out of the jail about noon Tuesday through a plumbing inspection door.

For a while Tuesday the pair was thought to have fled in a stolen car. However, the car, which had been left near Lemmons Camp, six miles west of here when it ran out of gas, was found a few miles from where the owner thought he left it. Snyder police have been leading the hunt for the two fugitives. Sheriff Homer Whisnand has been ill.

Sgt. Alfred Cole of the Snyder Police Dept. said he understood that Crawford, who was to be tried in a few days. on a felony theft charge, had a good chance of gaining his freedom legally. Crawford is accused of stealing clothes from an automobile in 1952, and Sgt. Cole said he understood the two state's witnesses in the case have been killed in an automobile wreck.

Bennett has been in prison in three states, according to Police Investigator L. J. White. He was arrested in Snyder in 1951 and charged with the burglarizing of a grocery. After making bond, he was arrested in Lamesa in connection with the burglary of the Western Union office there. Bennett then broke out of the Lamesa jail, and later was sent to prison in Minnesota for the attempted burglary of a post office. Returned to Texas and taken to Snyder, he got out on bond, and was being hunted a few days later for burglaries in Graham and Seymour.

29 Sep 1955 – Graham Leader - GRAND JURY RETURNS TEN INDICTMENTS

A 90th District Court Grand Jury returned 10 true bills following a session Thursday. Eight men were indicted by the Grand Jury, Vernon Edward Stafford was indicted by the Jury on DWI, second offense. **Joe Bob Bennett** and **Billy Jack Bennett**, brothers, were indicted for burglary.

15 March 1955 - 2 Women Charged With Helping Man Break Snyder Jail

SNYDER, March 14 (RNS)-Two women have been charged here with aiding in the jailbreak of Richard Elmer Crawford, 27, who was recaptured Monday night at Slaton. Crawford, under indictment here on a charge of burglary of an automobile, broke out of the Scurry County jail last Aug. 30. He was charged in Lubbock before a U.S. commissioner with illegal flight to avoid prosecution.

His wife, Mrs. Christine Crawford, 19, and his sister, Addie B. Johnson, 42; and his brother, Lonnie Thomas. Crawford, were also arrested in the roundup. The two women are charged with aiding and abetting in the escape. His brother is now on appeal bond on a two-year sentence for a safe cracking at Seymour.

Crawford and **Billy Jack Bennett**, 27, indicted for burglary, broke out of jail last August while awaiting trial. They filed the hasp off the lock of a door in the "bullpen" of the jail to escape. Bennett is still at large.

5 July 1956 – The Graham Leader= FBI Arrest Man In Connection With Burglary of Local Store Last Year

**Billy Jack Bennett**, 27, who was indicted by the Grand Jury on charges of burglary of Morrison's on Aug. 2, 1955, and reportedly jumped \$4,000 bond, was picked up by the F.B.I. at Meeker, Colorado, the past week end. Sheriff John Edwards said, Bennett would be returned to this city for trial in the 90th District Court.

His brother, **Joe Bob Bennett**, 22, also involved with the local robbery, was arrested by Oklahoma law enforcement officers and transferred to Louisiana in connection with burglary charges in that state. Edwards said Bennett was serving a term in the Louisiana state penitentiary.

19 Jul 1956 – The Graham Leader - SHERIFF RETURNS FUGITIVE FROM SNYDER TODAY Sheriff John Edwards and Texas Ranger Jim Riddle of Breckenridge returned **Billy Jack Bennett** from Snyder to the Young County jail today, Thursday. Bennett was indicted by the Grand Jury in connection with a burglary of Morrison's last summer, and is awaiting trial in the 90th District Court.

Amarillo, Texas •

Jan 27, 1967 Amarillo Men Given Terms

DUMAS - Billy Jack Bennett, 39, and **Joe Bob Bennett**, 34, both of 2019 Washington in Amarillo, were sentenced Thursday to eight-year prison terms for burglary of a service station-cafe in Sunray. The two pleaded innocent Wednesday before a Goth District Court jury. After the jury found the men guilty, they chose to have Dist. Judge Archie McDonald assess the penalty.

Fort Worth, Texas • Dec 7, 1967 Convictions Reversed In Burglary Charges

AUSTIN (AP) - The appeals court's conviction of two men in a Moore County burglary was reversed Wednesday because the judge allowed testimony about a tire tool found in their possession. The State Court of Criminal Appeals ordered a new trial for **Billy Jack Bennett** and **Joe Bob Bennett**, who were assessed eight years in the penitentiary for burglary.

The pair were indicted for breaking into a house owned by Annitta Boswell on Sept. 19 1966. The opinion refers to the property as a cafe. A filling station operator testified that on the day of the burglary a tire tool and screwdriver were missing from his station. In his arguments to the jury, the prosecutor said the Bennetts' possession of the tire tool was evidence they had committed the burglary, but the appeals court said there was no evidence the tool was used in the crime.

burglary

October 22, 1970 - Pampa, Texas

A Crime Never Gets Too Old To Be Solved

Although the 5-year statute of limitations had run out, assistant police chief George Wallace and Texas Ranger Bill Baten yesterday cleared up a safe Burglary at Gibson's Discount Store on the night of Oct. 10, 1964.

The case was solved when Wallace and Baten went to Canadian to question a man being held there on jail break and burglary charges. The assistant police chief said today they questioned **Billy Jack Bennett**, 43, of Amarillo, in the Canadian jail. Wallace Said Bennett was willing to talk when convinced the statute of limitations on the case had expired.

Bennett, according to Wallace, admitted the Gibson store safe burglary and expressed disappointment that only \$340 in cash had been left in the safe. Bennett also named an accomplice he said

was with him on the job. "There were no arrests and we merely conducted the interview to clear the case from the records," Wallace said.

Somehow in 1968, Billy Jack was out of prison and convinced Myrtle Killian to marry him probably in Borger, TX. She was born in Arkansas to William Issac Killian from Tennessee a Lue Ola Porter Killian who was also from Arkansas. He father died in 1928 only 9 days after her birth leaving Myrtle's mother with 5 girls and 2 boys ranging in age from 0 to 11. She was in Arkansas in 1930 but then her mother moved to Kansas in 1940 with all of the children, I haven't found Myrtle in 1950 Census but she seems to have ended up in Borger where in 1949, she was abducted by a gentleman, Harold Clifton who wanted to marry her.

*19 Oct 1949 – Lubbock Evening Journal - BORGER, April 19. (U.P)-Harold L. Clifton, 24, who allegedly used a rifle in his attempt to win the hand of a fair maiden, was charged today with assault with intent to murder.*

*The complaining witness, Miss Myrtle Killion, 21, charged that Clifton "kidnaped" her, drove to the hills overlooking the Canadian River and, at gunpoint, proposed marriage. They scuffled for possession of the gun, Miss Killion said, and she then promised to marry him "so he wouldn't drive his car over a cliff on the way back to town."*

*An oil company worker, Clifton was arraigned before Justice of Peace C. C. McClelland, who fixed bond of \$2,500.*

It must not have worked out because in 1976, Billy Jack married a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> time to Mabel Moser who was 5 years older than him and had been previously married to Earl Beacher Moog in 1940 and had Wendell Leon Mogg 1940–2014, Sherry Mogg Pierson 1943, Wayne Mogg 1944, and Earl Mogg Jr. 1946. After their divorce, Earl married a 2<sup>nd</sup> time to Shirleen Robinson in 1956 and had another daughter, Cheryl Ann Robinson who married Charles Lawson and died in 1990.

Billy Jack died in Oklahoma where Mabel was from. She died in 2007. While many of her siblings have obituaries, I have not found one for her and nor for Billy.

His first son died in 2014 and his obituary reads:

*Memorial services for Gary Norman Bennett, 66, of Hale Center will be held at 2:00 PM, Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at Kornerstone Funeral Chapel with Rev. Robert Malcom, pastor of Western Heritage Fellowship officiating and Chris Sanders, associate pastor assisting. Interment will follow at Hale Center Cemetery under the direction of Kornerstone Funeral Directors of Plainview. Mr. Bennett passed away 1:30 AM, January 19, 2014 at North West Texas Heart Hospital in Amarillo.*

*He was born January 4, 1948 in Plainview to Marie Bennett and the late Jack Bennett. He graduated from Plainview High School in 1966. He was employed by Southwestern Bell Telephone for 36 years, retiring in 2002. After retirement he worked as a ranger for Palo Duro Canyon State Park. He lived in Plainview and Amarillo before moving to Hale Center. He enjoyed cooking, woodworking, art, and refurbishing homes. He was a member of Western Heritage Fellowship in Hale Center, Telephone Pioneers, and Partners in Palo Duro Canyon.*

*Survivors include wife, Joyce; daughter, Lorri Bennett of Shreveport, LA; son, Brian Bennett and his wife, Andrea of Amarillo; granddaughter, Katie Bennett of Amarillo; mother, Marie Moody of Plainview; sisters, Kaye Robertson and husband Carl of Lubbock, and Suzy Skaggs of San Angelo and several nieces and nephews.*

*The family would like give a special thank you to all the doctors and nurses who cared for Gary. In lieu of flowers family request donations to: Partners in Palo Duro Foundation: 11450 Park Road 5, Canyon, Texas 79015.*

From this obituary we see that Gary had two children, Lori and Brian. Brian is married to Andrea and must have a daughter, Katie. His sister, Linda Kaye is married to Carl Robertson and lives in Lubbock and his stepsister Suzy is married to someone named Skaggs and lives in San Angelo in 2014. Looking further, I found that he married Deborah K. Weaver in 1967 and she was the mother of Lorri 1970 and Brian 1973. They divorced in 1979 and he later married Joyce Burzynski in 1992. She later married Mansel Gilmore,

### Children of Billy Jack and Verda Ross Bennett

718	Linda Kay Bennett	1946		Billy and Verda Child#1
719	Gary Norman Bennett	1948	2014	Billy and Verda Child#2

---

### 290. Peggy Joyce Bennett 13 SEP 1929 • Childress, TX - 27 MAR 2018 • Amarillo, TX

#1 Elmer Ray Greene 18 OCT 1926 • Vernon, TX - 26 DEC 2013 • Odessa, TX

Marriage: 2 Nov 1944 • Gaines, TX

#2 Curtis Floyd Mote 23 FEB 1925 • Vernon, TX - 7 MAY 1969 • Richmond, IN

Marriage: 27 Jan 1948 • Amarillo, TX – Div 1 Oct 1950 Amarillo, TX

#3 Gerald Edwin Gurn 29 DEC 1911 • Balko, OK - 30 JUN 1984 • Amarillo, TX

Marriage: 13 May 1953 • Clovis, NM



Peggy from Findagrave. Gerald's grave marker.

Summie and Olive's 2<sup>nd</sup> child was daughter Peggy Joyce who arrived in the summer of 1929 in time to make the 1930 Census. She next appears in 1940 during which time she has lost a sister Cora in 1934 and added a brother Joe Bob in 1934. After all of the antics of her brothers, I was a little concerned about Peggy. She initially got married in 1944 when she was only a month past her 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. She married Elmer Greene who was 19. I don't know how long they stayed together, but in 1948, she married Curtis Mote and they appear together in the 1950 Census living with her divorced mother in Amarillo. I won't repeat all of the stories, but from the news articles about you are aware that Curtis was a partner-in-crime with her big brother Billy Jack and later her younger brother, Joe Bob. Fortunately, she came to her senses or he went to jail, but they divorced in Oct 1950, right after the census.

It gets a little confusing here in that in Aug 1950, right before the divorce, she had a daughter Donna Camille whose birth record shows her to be Donna Camille Gurn and not Mote. Then in 1953, she marries Gerald Gurn in Clovis, NM and they have a 2<sup>nd</sup> child, Melody Gurn in Sep 1953 only 4 months after their marriage. I am not going to explore the first two husbands in depth, but looking at Gerald we find that he was quite a bit older than Peggy having been born in 1911 to Charles and Frances Kinder Gurn in Oklahoma. They were from Missouri and Kansas. He had one older sister. His mother died in 1944 and his father in 1952. He was a driver of oil trucks in Oklahoma beginning in the 1930's and was still doing that in 1950. Surprisingly, when he and Peggy marry, he was 41 and that was his first marriage. Back in 1940 he registered for the WW2 Draft at which time he was 28 and working for Groendyke Transport in Enid Oklahoma. His father Charles in Beaver was his point of contact. He was 6'-1"-158lbs-gray eyes-brown hair-dark. I haven't been able to find his enlistment records but his death records indicate that he served from 26 Aug 1942 to 12 Dec 1945. His grave marker shows that he was a TSGT in the US Army. In 1952, he was the Secretary Treasurer for Red Wing Transports in Amarillo.

In searching for Peggy Gurn in the newspapers, she begins turning up in Amarillo in 1956. Living at 3614 Austin. This article appeared in 1969 - *Mrs. Peggy Gurn of 3614 Austin gave a 100-year-old religious painting valued at \$1,500. It will be hung in the at Whiteface chapel where religious services for the 73 girls are held.* She seems to have developed a unique talent and reputation as indicated in this article from 1976.

*She's prayin' for a beautiful day and lots of strength. "They're out to beat me this year." said Mrs. Peggy Gurn of 3614 Austin. the Women's World Champion Cow Chip Thrower*



*"They don't like the fact that a Texan holds the trophy." she said. speaking of Oklahomans up at Beaver and the annual cow chip throw off on April 24. Mrs. Gurn. who has taken the chip title for the past two years in a row. "got into this whole mess" by pure happenstance.*

*She went up to Beaver to set up a booth for her antiques at the town's annual Cimarron Territory Celebration. and the town druggist casually informed her that he had entered her in the chip tossing event. She won -- with a hefty sling of 82 feet. And according to the rules. the champion must defend her title until defeated. So last year she tossed the smelly discs again, this time throwing into the wind. for a winning toss of 79 feet.*



Champion slinger . . . Mrs. Gurn with Beaver County trophies.

*"With a good day and the wind in the right direction I could beat the world record (women's) of 101 feet and 10 inches this year." she said. "I've done better than that here at home."*

*She won't say just how much better -- it's best not to let the competition know.*

*Asked about the details of the competition. she said the cow chips must be at least six inches in diameter. "You pick 'em up right out of their wagon." she said. "I beat 'em around a little, to make sure they won't crumble in mid-air." She never threw a cow chip in her life until that day in 1974 at Beaver, but she's thrown other things.*

*"I played baseball on the Kerrville Yellow Jackets when I was about 18." she said. "We were the only team ever to beat the Bandera Cow Girls." She added proudly. As third-baseman on that team she acquired a good throwing arm, but the techniques of chip pitchin' and ball pitchin' are a little different. No curve balls. or rather, chips. "You pitch outside that line and you're out." she said.*

*Anyhow, she's headin' back up to Beaver to defend her title. and a goodly contingent of backers will go along for moral support. "Hope I don't let 'em down." she said. Up or down wind, she'll be in there pitchin'.*

Gerald died in 1984 and I have not found an obituary for him. Peggy died in 2018 and her obituary reads:

**Peggy Joyce Burn**, 88, of Amarillo, died Tuesday, March 27, 2018. Graveside services will be 2:00 pm Saturday at Llano Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 6:00-8:00 pm Friday at Cox Funeral Home, 4180 Canyon Dr.

Peggy was born September 13, 1929 in Childress to Summie and Ollie Bennett. She graduated from Plainview High School. In her teens, Peggy played softball for the Kerrville Yellow Jackets. She married Gerald "G." Gurn on May 13, 1953 in Clovis, NM.

She was an antique dealer, and travelled all over the U.S. going to antique shows. Peggy was an excellent mother, and she adored her husband. Together, they enjoyed travelling to England to buy antiques. She was preceded in death by her husband, G. Gurn; a grandson, Gerald Bird; and three brothers.

Survivors include two daughters, Melody Kincaid and husband David of Amarillo, and Donna Bird of Lago Vista; a sister, Carolyn of Amarillo; five grandchildren, Danny Kincaid of Round Rock, Katrina Cantu and husband Ricky of Amarillo, Jack Bird and wife JoAnn of Lago Vista, Jerry Bishop and wife Sue of Dale, and Tracy Bird and spouse Robert Little of Leander; seven great-grandchildren, Zoie Williams, Bailey Bishop, Jordan Bishop, Gerald Bird, Andrew Cantu, Anthony Cantu, and Alex Cantu; and a great-great-granddaughter, Bentley Cantu.

Some interesting information from this obituary came to my attention. She mentions here two daughters and we find that they are married and where they live. We also learn of her grandchildren, Danny, Katrina (married to Ricky Cantu), Jack Bird (Donna's son – married to JoAnn) Jerry Bishop and wife Sue (suggesting one of her daughters was probably married twice, and Tracy Bird (Donna's daughter – married to Robert Little). I will not sort out the grandchild at the present. She also mentions a sister, Carolyn and I could not imagine who that could be. Digging deeper, I found that Summie and Olive actually had a daughter, Carolyn in 1945, but for some reason, she did not appear in the 1950 Census. I will cover her later. It's always exciting to find a new family member except it messes up all of the numbering sequence of everyone that comes after them!

Beginning with Donna, it gets very confusing. In March 1973 she had a son named Jack Temple Bird supposedly with a Brent Bird, but was not married. In Sep 1973 she married John Arnn, a gentleman who was born in 1938 and thus was 12 years older and in 1963 had divorced a first wife with who he had two children. Then in 1974, She had a daughter in 1974, with Brent Bird named Tracy Jolene Bird. She and John divorced in 1976 and the records say that they had one child. Then in 1979, she married Garlen Dale Peace who had married Mary Hall in 1973 and had a daughter Stepanie Peace in 1973 before divorcing in 1974. In Mar 1985, she finally married Brent Bird and in Jul 1985 divorced Garlen Peace with no children.

Melody is equally confusing. In 1969 when she was 15, she married Melvin Blackwell and in Oct 1969, they had a son who was Danny Leroy Blackwell, but was later adopted by her 3<sup>rd</sup> husband, David Leroy Kincaid. After divorcing Melvin in 1970, she married James Owsley in Nov 1971 but in May 1972 with no children before marrying David Kincaid in 1974. They had a daughter Katrina Joyce Kincaid in 1977.

The only grandchild I have not figured out is Jerry Bishop.

#### Children of Peggy Bennett and her husbands

721	Donna Camille Gurn	1950	Peggy and Gerald Child#1 - maybe
722	Melody Jolene Gurn	1953	Peggy and Gerald Child#2

**291. Cora Catherine Bennett** 18 DEC 1933 • Lamb, TX - Death 31 MAR 1934 • Lamb, TX  
Cora died when she was 3 months and 18 days. I cannot decipher her cause of death.

**292. Joe Bob Bennett** 23 MAR 1935 • Lubbock, TX - 20 JUN 2001 • Amarillo, TX  
#1 Bertha M Curtis 7 AUG 1943 • Potter, TX - Living  
Marriage: Apr 1960 • Amarillo, TX  
#2 Juanita Davis Bennett JAN 1922 • Haskell County, TX - 3 FEB 2017 • Amarillo, TX



Joe Bob arrived in the spring of 1935 after the death of his next older sister. He shows up with his parents and siblings in the 1940 Census, but Summie and Olive split up before 1950 and Sunnie married Buelah Tillie who had been previously married to Charles Boyle and had two sons with him in 1936 and 1941. She and Summie then had three kids between 1946 and 1957, Mickie, Dannie and Dickie though Dannie died at birth. In the 1950 Census he's the big kid as Billy Jack and Peggy have moved on and married. They have moved from Amarillo to Pleasanton, Atascosa which ironically is where Jesse Smith lived in 1960.

According to his records, he enlisted in the Marines in 1952 and served in Korea and was discharged in 1954. During that period, he hooked up with big brother Billy Jack and robbed the Graham Department store. He then reenlisted in the Marines in Mar 1955, but must have been in the reserves because it was in Aug 1955 that the Graham robbery took place. That must have prompted his discharge in Nov 1955.

In April 1960, he got a marriage license in Yukon, OK with Bertha Mae Curtis, He was 25 and she 19 and they both lived in Amarillo. On 17 June 1961 they had a son, Casey James Bennett but he died 5 days later having been born prematurely. They divorced in Oct 1965 and she later married David Stanley Wilson in Salem, OR in 1966 and they had a daughter in 1970.

After his divorce, he hooked up with Billy Jack for another crime spree and in 1967, they were sentenced to 8 years. I have not found out where or how long he served, but after his incarceration, he married Juanita Davis. Per his obituary, they married in 1969. Per his obituary, they may have had a daughter, unless the daughter mentioned was from a previous marriage that Juanita had. He died in 2001 and his obituary reads:

**Joe Bob Bennett**, 66, of Amarillo, died Tuesday, June 19, 2001. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Friday in Memory Gardens Cemetery with the Rev. Robert Field, retired, officiating. Arrangements are by Rector Funeral Home, 2800 S. Osage St.

*Mr. Bennett was born in Lubbock. He married Juanita Davis in 1969 at Claude. He owned B & B Overhead Door Co., and retired in 1980. Survivors include his wife; a daughter, Kay Dyer of Amarillo; two sisters, Peggy Gurn and Ann Bennett, both of Amarillo; a brother, F.R. Bennett of Amarillo; and six grandchildren. (Published in Amarillo Globe-News, June 20, 2001)*

Juanita died in 2017 and her obituary reads:

**Juanita Bennett** - January 2, 1922 - February 3, 2017

*Juanita grew up in Decatur and Haskell, Texas. She and her late husband were business owners for most of her life. Juanita and her siblings liked to get together and sing growing up and as adults.*

*Survivors include one daughter, Kay Dyer of Keller; two brothers, Preston Davis of Vega, and Thomas Davis of Crosbyton; six grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren.*

*She was preceded in death by her husband, Joe Bob Bennett; a son, Jimmy Patterson; a sister, Vivian Hatley; and a brother, Willard Davis.*

She mentions a son which leads me to believe that she was married to someone named Patterson before she married Joe Bob and had two children, Jimmy and Kay. Let me explore that. That led me to the discovery that she had married C. W. Patterson in 1937 and had Kay Patterson in 1940 and Jimmy in 1942 before divorcing. Her husband married Geraldine Turnbow in 1943 before heading off to war and had another son Jackie in 1944. They divorced around 1950 and he then married Eva Clutt who was 10 years older than him and previously married. For some reason, in Jan 1953 he shot Eva and then killed himself.

#### **Child of Joe Bob Bennett and Bertha Curtis**

723     Casey James Bennett     1961     1961     Joe Bob and Bertha's child

---

**293. Summie Rex Bennett** 26 JAN 1943 • Tarrant, TX - 28 NOV 2017 • Amarillo, TX

#1 Carolyn Moody 1946 • Tennessee – Living?

Marriage 9 Sep 1964 • Amarillo, TX – Div 23 Sep 1966 – Mississippi, Arkansas

#2 Carolyne L Smith 1947 ABT 1947 • Texas – Living?

Marriage: 13 Feb 1981 • Amarillo, TX

#3 Jamie Beth Smith 20 MAR 1947 • Amarillo, TX – Living?

Marriage: 26 Jul 2002 • Armstrong, TX



Summie and Jamie from FamilySearch.

After an 8-year break, Summie and Olive had their 4<sup>th</sup> child, Summie named after his father, but not a Jr. He arrived in the middle of WW2. He was followed by a sister Carolyn in 1945 who does not appear in the 1950 Census for some reason. A couple of years after his arrival, Summie and Olive divorced and he married Buelah Tilley who actually had two sons, Harlan (1936) and Jerry (1940) from her 1<sup>st</sup> marriage. In the 1950 Census he appears with his new stepbrother, Jerry Boyle does as well as his new half-brother, Mickie who arrived in 1947.

Unfortunately, Summie inherited his older brothers' wild streak and in 1957 this happened:

#### *Youngster Judged To Be Delinquent*

*Rex Bennett, 14-year-old son of Mrs. Ollie Bennett, 2105 Spruce has been formally judged a delinquent child. In a hearing in the Court of Domestic Relations, Rex was given a suspended commitment to the Texas State Youth Development Council and was released to his mother. He was referred to the court in connection with auto theft and burglary.*

He next appears in June 1964 when he is being indicted for burglary. About the time of his indictment, he got married for the 1<sup>st</sup> time and this unusual story appeared:

#### *Bond Set For Bride, Hubby Still In Jail*

*The wedding ceremony was brief and simple. The young couple looked like hundreds of other American newlyweds. The girl, 18, and the man, 21, should have left the room and begun a life together.*

*But the man was returned to his cell in Randall-County Jail, the young bride headed home to wait for the next visiting days, a week later.*

*Mrs. Summie Rex Bennet, the former Carolyn Mooney, returned to Randall County courthouse annex Wednesday morning, but her mission included more than seeing her husband. Mr. Summie Rex Bennett the bridegroom, is sitting in jail awaiting trial on charges of burglary by breaking. He has been convicted of burglary by breaking in Potter County and has been sentenced to six years in the state prison.*

*Wednesday, the new Mrs. Bennett was brought before Justice of the Peace, W. A. "Bill" Wilson for arraignment. She also faces charges of burglary by breaking. The 4-11 girl dabbed at her eyes as Wilson set bond at \$200. "I don't know what it is all about," she told this reporter.*

*In an interview before her arraignment Wednesday afternoon, the bride spoke of her husband and their plans for the future. "He (Bennett) wants to go on and begin his time, so he can get back. He just got mixed up with the wrong crowd," she explained.*

*Her plans for the future included joining her parents in Memphis, Tennessee until Bennett is released from prison. "He should be out in 14 months, and then we will be together. I plan to work. I decorate cakes and I think I can get a job doing that. "My parents want me up there with them. Daddy's having a fit that I'm not up there now. They know me and they want me up there," she continued,*

*"This sure is a mess. I've never been in trouble before," the girl pointed out. "My parents like Summie Rex. They knew about his trouble. We thought we knew each other, 'cause we have dated for two years, so we decided to get married," Mrs. Bennett told the reporter. The 18-year-old bride was staying with her husband's sister in Amarillo.*

*"My parents told me I could stay until after his trial and then I could come home. So I'll wait until then, and go to Memphis," she pointed out. But until Mrs. Bennett is cleared of the felony charges facing her, she will remain near at hand. Late Wednesday afternoon, the young bride sat in the waiting room of the Randall County jail. Her husband sat upstairs in a cell. They celebrated their first anniversary of one week that way.*

I guess she got tired of waiting because 2 years later they divorced. The divorce was in Arkansas for some reason. Maybe he had been sent to prison there, Apparently, he got in trouble again, and in 1968 he was given a life sentence for being a habitual criminal. He appealed that sentence, but in 1970, it was affirmed. In 1976, he continued his appeals and must have been successful because in 1981, he was out of jail and getting married to Carolyn Smith. I was wondering if this was his 1<sup>st</sup> wife back to try again, but she seems to be a different woman who was born in Texas and had married and divorced Daniel Austin in 1979 and 1980. The marriage with Summie only lasted less than 3 years. In 2020, he married another Smith girl, Jamie Beth Smith who was born in Amarillo in 1947. She had previously married James Garrison in 1987 who had previously married Jerrilyn James in 1963 and divorced in 1991 after having two daughters in 1964 and 1974. Interestingly, she married James 4 years before his divorce.

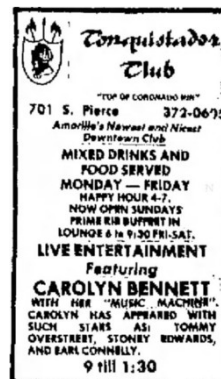
Summie never seemed to have time to have any children. He died in 2017, although I cannot find records to confirm this not an obituary. Not a life well lived I'm afraid.

#### 294. Carolyn Ann Bennett 28 FEB 1945 • Hale, TX - 7 OCT 2021 • Amarillo



In somewhat of a surprise to me, daughter Carolyn appeared as I was going through this analysis. She did not appear on the 1950 Census for some reason and only a comment in her sister's obituary led me to find her. She was the last child born before Summie and Olive divorced and I do not know who raised her, but as I was searching newspapers, she seems to have ended up with her sister Peggy Gurn.

She first shows up at the same address 3614 Austin in Amarillo in 1962 when she would have been 17. She continues to appear at that address through most of the 1960's and in 1977, the reportedly quit her nursing job and became a part of a singing act called "The Singin' Nurses". Apparently, she was somewhat successful as an entertainer, and this ad appeared in 1977.





Carolyn died in 2021 and her obituary reads:

**Carolyn Bennett Obituary**

*Carolyn Ann Bennett, 76, of Amarillo, passed away on Thursday, October 7, 2021. Memorial services are scheduled at 2:00PM Friday, October 15, 2021 at Cox-Rowley Funeral Home, 4180 Canyon Drive.*

*Carolyn was born in Plainview, Texas on February 28, 1945 to Summie and Olive Bennett. She attended Amarillo High School. Carolyn later went on to Amarillo College to receive her Vocational Nursing license. She was a simple person who enjoyed taking care of others. Carolyn had such a beautiful voice, loved to sing country western songs. She loved animals, especially her dogs. She was preceded in death by her parents, Summie and Olive Bennett.*

*Survivors include her two nieces, Melody Kincaid and husband David of Amarillo; Donna Bird of Lake Travis; two great nieces, Tracy and Katrina; three great nephews, Danny, Jerry, and Jack; one great-niece, Zoie; and one great-great nephew Gerald.*

---

**295. Mickey Lawson Bennett 28 JUL 1946 • Castro, TX - 18 FEB 2013 • Corpus Christi**

#1 Lucy Bennett 1939 • Texas? – Living?

Marriage: 24 Sep 1965 - ? – Divorced 1969 – Austin, TX

#2 Maureen Martel 1948 • Massachusetts - Living

Marriage: 20 Sep 1969 • Odessa, TX – Div 1978



Maureen is the only one I found a photo for from her Permian HS yearbook

Mickey was the first son born to Summie and his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, Beulah Tilley. He arrived the summer of 1946 as WW2 had ended and America's baby boom was beginning. He appears in the 1950 Census as the younger son of Joe Bob, Jerry Don, and Summie Rex along with a new stepbrother, Jerry Boyle. He was born out in Castro County, south of Amarillo, but they had moved to Pleasanton near San Antonio by 1950.

Records show that he married someone named Lucy in 1965 when he was 19 and they divorced in 1969 after having a child. I have not been able to identify either of these people. Following his divorce, he married a 2<sup>nd</sup> time in Aug 1969 to Maureen Martel, a lovely young lady born in Massachusetts in 1948 to Maurice and Mary Martel both from Massachusetts. HE worked at Sunshine Iron Works and she was a nurse, Maureen had a younger brother, William Gary who was born in Texas. Their wedding announcement had the following information: *A 1966 debutante and graduate of Permian High School, Miss Martel is a senior at the University of Texas, Austin, and also is employed at Arthur Murray's Dance Studio where her fiancé is a dance director.* She graduated from Permian a year before my sister and I started school there in 1966. We see that Mickey and Maureen were dancers. In 1972, they had a son, Brad Lawson Bennett.

They moved to Corpus Christi in the mid-70's and Mickey continued his dancing career as noted in this ad from 1976. *Mr. Mickey Bennett - Fiesta Dance Clubs 3643 S. Staples St. Corpus Christi.* In another article from that year: *Down at Zapata and Falcon Lake and the Beacon Lodge, Mickey Bennett and Jerry Boyles found the water a bit murky and the wind a bit stiff.* He was hanging out with his step brother. In 1978, Mickey and Maureen divorced. While he was dancing, Maureen seems to have gotten involved in Real Estate and in the early 1980's came up with a concept that sounds a lot like today's AirBNB. She teamed up with a couple of other ladies and solicited homeowners in desirable neighborhoods in Corpus, to lease out vacant rooms in their homes to tourist coming to enjoy "The Sparkling City by the Sea". It was called Sand Dollar B&B. She went on to become pretty influential in the city serving as a leader in the city's Vision2000 campaign. In 2002, she married Gary Mizner, a local man who had been previously married and had two daughters.

Meanwhile, Mickey may have been involved in something called BlueSpot Records in Georgetown, TX in the early 2000's, but he seems to have ended up in Port Aransas leading hunting and fishing trips. I don't think that he married again and he died in Feb 2013 but other than a death announcement, his obituary does not shed any light on his death. The last I heard of Maureen was in 2019

when her brother died in 2019. I have seen indications that son Brad may have been at Texas A&M in 1995, but I am not sure.

### Children of Mickey Bennet and Lucy and Maureen Martel

724	Unknown Bennett	1966	Child of Mickey and Lucy
725	Brad Lawson Bennett	1972	Child of Mickey and Maureen

---

### 296. Danny Ray Bennett 21 APR 1954 • Travis, TX - 28 APR 1954 • Austin, TX

Mickey was followed by Danny in 1954, Danny was premature and stillborn.

---

### 297. Dickie Joe Bennett 8 JUN 1957 • Travis, TX – Living

Clarissa A Schiller 29 APR 1959 Dallas, TX - Living

Marriage: 30 Aug 1985 • Austin, TX



Dickie arrived in the summer of 1957, too late to appear in any censuses released as of this writing. He was born in Austin and was the last of the children born to Summie and Beulah Tillie. He appears to have grown up and stayed in Austin and this article from 1981 indicates that he made his mark in the beauty industry.

*For 31/2 years now, Austin's elite hairstyling studio The Style Menagerie, has been showing Austinites the way to look their best and be in style. The Style Menagerie's owner Dickie Bennett (a native Austinite) first started cutting hair when he was 17, and has been going strong ever since. Dickie attended 3 schools here in Austin and has a degree in both fields of cosmetology and Barbering. After working for 1 yr. Dickie opened The Style Menagerie at the age of 20 and now his shop consists of himself, Kent Romines, Charlotte Parnell, and Susan Offord; Austin's top-notch hairstylists.*

In 1985, he married Clarissa Schiller, a young lady from Dallas who was born to Richard K. Schiller from Minnesota and Anna Scotch from Dallas. Her father had served in Korea and married Anna in 1957. By 1986, he had branched out into custom jewelry. It seems that they ran into hard times financially in 1988, but were still operating the Style place in 1988. The last I heard about him was when he was searching for treasures in Lake Austin when the river level was lowered in 1993. I should mention that Clarissa had married twice before he marriage to Dickie. First in 1978 to 1980 to Richard Harrison, and then from Apr 1983 to Feb 1985 to Habib Ghaneh who I don't know much about.

Dickie and Clarissa had a son, Lawson Tyler in 1986, and a daughter, Kenra LeeAnn in Dec 1990. Lawson became a star early in his life in 1988: *Nineteen-month-old Lawson Bennett knows how to play a crowd. Dressed in a snazzy white tuxedo with a red cummerbund and matching bow tie, he hit the audience with his best grin as he strutted onstage to the music of their applause. The toddler's grinning ploy worked. It won him the "Master" trophy Monday at the eighth annual Austin Area Baby Pageant held at Palmer Auditorium.*

In 1989, this article about Clarissa appeared when she volunteered for a mission trip to Honduras: *Clarissa Bennett, who teaches a dental assistant class at CBM Education Center in Austin, has signed up for the February trip and will bring a graduating student, Charlyn Bruttell. Bennett and her students have solicited contributions for the trip and have raised \$375 from bake sales and spaghetti dinners at the school.*

### Children of Dickie and Clarissa Schiller Bennett

726	Lawson Tyler Bennett	1986	Dickie and Clarissa Child#1
727	Kenra Leeann Bennett	1990	Dickie and Clarissa Child#2

---

This is the end of the line for the Summie Bennett branch. It was complete 6 Feb 2025.

## 98. Unknown Bennett About 1899-1900 – see explanation above

**99. Mary Martha Bennett Patrick** 29 JUL 1912 • Northfield, TX - 11 JUN 2007 • San Antonio, TX  
 Herman K. Patrick 21 NOV 1909 • Wann, OK - 20 SEP 1999 • San Antonio, TX  
 Married: About 1933 probably Pampa, TX



Mary and Herman's grave markers from Findagrave. Mary from Keetch Brothers site on Ancestry.

Mary was 4<sup>th</sup> child born to Summie and Cora. With the 6-year gap between her and Summie, I wonder if her mother lost a child. She appears first in the 1920 Census and then goes missing until 1940. If you recall, in 1930 her father had gone missing and her mother was living with her married older sister Velvia. The older kids are accounted for in 1930, but Mary and her younger sister Ivey are not to be found. My speculation is that they were with their grandmother, Emily Guthrie Smith who has not been found in the 1930 Census either, but died in 1939 in Lamb County where the rest of the Bennetts lived.

When she finally does appear in 1940, she was living in Dumas, TX and married to Herman K. Patrick and has a 6-year-old son, Kae Thomas who arrived in 1934 probably in Pampa, Tx where I found Herman and Mary in 1934 living at 216 W. Brown and Herman was working for Krieger Radio Service. In 1936, they had moved to 411 S. Russell and Herman was a salesman for Tarpley Music. Neither of those address exist today, and Pampa looks pretty bleak. Krieger Radio became Pampa Radio in 1936 and this may have prompted Herman's exit as new management took control.

Herman was born in Oklahoma in 1909 to John and Ethel Jones Patrick. His father is listed as being a native American. In 1910 he owned a grocery, in 1930 he was a pipeline inspector and in 1930 he was a stationary engineer in Pampa which is how Herman got to Pampa and married Mary. We see their education on this census. The 1940 address on the census is unclear.

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
1940 Census	Rear	Partner Avenue	Dumas, M	Rented	15							
Patrick	Harman K.	Head	Male	White	30	1910	Married	No	High School, 4th year	Oklahoma	No	Radio/Refrigerator
Patrick	Mary M.	Wife	Female	White	27	1913	Married	No	High School, 2nd year	Texas		
Patrick	Kar Thomas	Son	Male	White	6	1933	Single	No	None	Texas		

In 1940, Herman registered for the WW2 Draft and they were still living in Dumas. His mother who was living in Medina, TX was his point of contact and he worked for the Gray Supply Company. He was 5'-9" – 150lbs – gray eyes – black hair – light complexion. His military records are a little disorganized to follow, but it appears that he enlisted in the Navy in Feb 1942 in Dallas. His service number was 616-35-06 and in Feb 1943 he was with the Fleet Air Wing 15 Headquarters Squadron. In June 1944 he was with Squadron 5-2. It will take a significant amount of time to sort all of this out. At one time he appeared to be serving on the USS Throat which was a minesweeper. Some later reports have him in Aug 1945 at the Naval Hospital at Norfolk VA, but I cannot tell if he had been wounded.

After the war, Herman returned to Dumas where he opened his own radio shop. The street address is very unclear in the census and I do not find a City Directory listing for him during this period. These were the radio businesses in Pampa in 1950. I searched the

1101

Radio Repairing

Bill's Radio Shop 906 W Brown av  
D & O Radio Service 328 S Cuyler  
**HAWKINS RADIO LABORATORIES, 917 Barnes, Tel 36**  
Lee's Radio Repair Shop 421 S Russell  
Pampa Radio Lab 717 W Foster av

is very unclear in the census and I do not find a City  
Directory listing for him during this period. These were  
the radio businesses in Pampa in 1950. I searched the

		Birth Date	Marital Status	Birth Place	Citizenship	Hours Worked	Occupation	Industry
1950 Census	Relationship	Pampa, Pecos, Texas, USA						
Patrick	Herman K. Head	White Male	40 1910 Married	Oklahoma		60	Radio Mechanic	Radio Shop
Patrick	Mary M. Wife	White Female	40 1913 Married	Texas				
Patrick	Kaye T. Son	White Male	16 1933 Never Married	(Texas				



news to try and make a connection without success. Just a lot of ads for each. Both Herman and Mary were 40 and Kae was 16 and playing football for the Dumas Demons.

In the 1960 San Antonio City Directory, I found Herman working as a technician for RCA and they lived at 135 Future Drive. It's still there. It is near Balcones Heights, just south of IH610 and east of IH10. Mary was also listed as working at Dell-View Pharmacy. US Phone and Address Directories indicate that they probably lived at that same address until Patrick's death in 1999.

The only other addition I have at this point is that their only child, Kae married Joyce Von Scheele in 1959 and they had three children between 1960 and 1968.

Herman died in 1999 and the only obituary I have found is nothing more than a notice of his passing. Mary died in 2007 and her obituary reads:



San Antonio Express-News (TX) - Wednesday, June 13, 2007

*Mary M. (Bennett) Patrick passed away on June 11, 2007 in San Antonio, Texas. She was born on July 29, 1912 in Northfield, Texas, to S.F. Bennett and Cora Smith. She was of the "greatest generation". Mary was a very loving person who liked to give big hugs. She enjoyed working in her garden and adored her grandkids. Mary was a truly devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She will be dearly missed by everyone who knew and loved her. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Herman K. Patrick. She is survived by her son, Kae T. Patrick and wife, Vicki of Odessa, TX; and the mother of Kae's children, Joyce Keller; sister, Eloyce Smith of Olton, TX; grandchildren, Dane Herman Patrick and wife, Kelly of San Antonio, TX, Kae Lynn Patrick of San Antonio, TX and Julie*



*Von Gardener and husband, Oscar of Allen, TX; great-grandchildren, Ashley Plauche of San Antonio, TX, Jacqueline and Gracie Gardener of Allen, TX. SERVICES Visitation will be held on Thursday-June 14, 2007 from 6:00PM until 8:00PM at Mission Park Funeral Chapels North. Graveside Services will be on Friday-June 15, 2007 at 10:00AM at Mission Burial Park North, 20900 IH-10 West, San Antonio, TX 78257, with Rev. Bill Shockley officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 8115 Datapoint Drive, San Antonio, TX 78229. You may sign the on-line guestbook at [www.missionparks.com](http://www.missionparks.com) under the obituary section. Mission Park Funeral Chapels North.*

#### **Child of Herman and Mary Bennett Patrick**

297 Kae T Patrick 1933 XXXX Herman and Martha - Only child

#### **297. Kae Thomas Patrick 12 MAR 1934 • Gray, TX – Living?**

#1 Joyce Lynn Von Scheele 29 OCT 1940 • Bexar, TX – Living?

Marriage: 29 Aug 1959 • Bexar, TX – Divorced Oct 1985 with 3 children

#2 Vicki Lynn Dublin 24 FEB 1947 • Jacksonville, TX - 2 MAR 2017 • Odessa, TX

Marriage: 2 Sep 1997 • Odessa, Texas



Kae was the only child born to Herman and Mary Bennett Patrick, but he turned out to be a good one. Photos from his high school football days in Dumas and as a Texas State Legislator 1981-1988

His first wife Joyce in high school. His 2<sup>nd</sup> wife from her obituary.

Kae was born in Gray County, but his parents moved to Dumas, TX before the 1940 Census and that is where he grew up. He appears to have missed the Korean War. In 1950, he was a 16-year-old in Dumas where his father was working in the radio business. Looking to his high school yearbooks and reading news clippings, we find that he was a sophomore in 1950 and on the football team. Unfortunately, his later yearbooks are not available. Newspaper articles and other research shows that the Dumas Demons stunk in 1950, but improved to 9-1 his senior year. In 1955, he was reportedly a YMCA Camp Counselor in Kerrville. In 1959, he married Joyce Von Scheele, a young lady from San Antonio whose parents, Edward and Virginia Hank Von Scheel were both from Texas and she had an older brother Edward. They had Dane Herman Patrick in 1960, Kae Lynn Patrick (a daughter named after her father) 1966, and Julie Von Patrick in 1968. They divorced in 1985 and Joyce later married Rodney Keller in 1997 who was born in Ohio in 1934, married Barbara Linn in 1958, had three children before divorcing in 1979.

In the early 1960's they were living in San Antonio and Kae was reported to have been involved in the search for the body of a missing child and was credited with finding her. He started getting involved in residential real estate and eventually had his own brokerage firm. The kids were growing up and involved in activities like YMCA camp in Kerrville. In 1978, he ran for state representative as a Republican against an entrenched Democrat and came up 738 votes short. He challenged the results and his protest held up the start of the session until they finally rejected his challenge and seated the incumbent. In 1980, he ran again and won easily this time and went on to serve in the state legislature until 1988 when he resigned. The political life seems to have had a detrimental effect on his marriage as he and Joyce divorced in the middle of his political career. He seems to have taken a state job related to automobile insurance.

In 1997 when he was 63, he married Vicki Dublin whose mother had the unusual name of Billybob. Vicki was highly educated and ended up being an educator herself. She married briefly in 1978 to 1982 with no children. She died in 2017. Her obituary reads: **PATRICK, Vicki Dublin**

*Vicki was born in Jacksonville, Texas on February 24, 1947 to Richmond E. and Billybob Dublin. Vicki passed away on March 2, 2017. She is survived by her husband Kae T. Patrick, two brothers; Richie Dublin of Shreveport and David Dublin of Georgetown, and three honorary grandchildren; Dane Patrick, Kae Lynn Kinne, both of San Antonio, and July von Gardner of Allen, Texas.*

*When Vicki was three, her family moved to Odessa, Texas where she went on to graduate from Permian High School. Vicki earned a master's degree in speech from TCU. She taught at Columbia College in Georgia, at Tarlton State, the University of Texas at the Permian Basin, and at Odessa College. Vicki also spent twelve years at the Texas capital serving as an assistant to three different state representatives and as assistant press secretary to the speaker of the house, Gib Lewis. She was and is loved by many. She was a lady who cared greatly for others. She had a beguiling sense of humor that could be quite entertaining and original.*

*Vicki was a member of the Round Rock Presbyterian church. She will greatly be missed by many, many, many. God will be pleased and happy to have her.*

From this we learn a little about Kae's children. Since it does not seem that Kae or Joyce have died, I don't have obituaries for them. I went back to Kae's mother's obituary for this additional information: *Dane Herman Patrick and wife, Kelly of San Antonio, TX, Kae Lynn Patrick of San Antonio, TX and Julie Von Gardener and husband, Oscar of Allen, TX; great-grandchildren, Ashley Plauche of San Antonio, TX, Jacqueline and Gracie Gardener of Allen, TX*

This tells us that Dane was married to Kelly in 2007, daughter Kae was not married at that time and Julie was married to Oscar Gardner and had two daughters, Jacqueline and Gracie. I will try to find out who Ashley Planche is.

Looking at Dane I found that he married Kelly Clarkson in Dallas in 1986 just after his parent's divorce. I have not found much about Kelly nor any children.

Daughter Kae married Aubrey Plauche in 1992 and had a daughter Ashley in 1993 before divorcing in 1995. See married Kenneth Diehl in 2000 and divorced in 2006 with no additional children.

Julie married Oscar Gardner in Collins County in 1991 and had 2 children before divorcing in 2010. I know that Jacqueline was born in 1995, but I have not found a birthdate for Gracie but it is probably Sep 1999 and Texas birth records after 1997 don't seem to be available.



### Children of Kae and Joyce Von Scheel Patrick

728	Dane Herman Patrick	1960	Kae and Joyce's child#1
729	Kae Lynn Patrick	1966	Kae and Joyce's child#2
730	Julie Von Patrick	1968	Kae and Joyce's child#3

**100. Ivey Eloyce Bennett** 6 AUG 1917 • Northfield, TX - 31 MAR 2014 • Olton, TX  
 William Melvin Smith Sr 8 SEP 1914 • Grandfield, OK - 14 SEP 1988 • Lubbock, TX  
 Married: 11 June 1933 – Clovis, NM – per her obituary



Eloyce from her obituary and Ivey and Bill's grave marker from Findagrave.

The final child born to Summie and Cora was their Ivey Eloyce. I think that she is the only sibling for which I have actually found a birth certificate. That birth certificate tells us that she was the 7<sup>th</sup> child born to Cora but only 5 were surviving.

See my comments at the beginning of this family which prompted a renumbering.

As with her next older sister, she is missing in 1930 as is her grandmother and my suspicion is that Mary and Eloyce were with their grandmother Cora in 1930 as their parents seemed to be having some issues. Per her obituary, she married William Melvin Smith in Clovis NM on 11 June 1933. I found this interesting story about William's older sister, Opal. *by Opal Smith Huckabee - Everett and I met in the fall of 1932 at Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church in the Circle Community west of Olton, Texas. We were married December 17, 1933 at Clovis, New Mexico by a Justice of the Peace. Jess Farris and Leora Jones were with us.* It would seem that she must have gotten that idea from her younger brother. I'm not sure what the attraction with Clovis as a marrying place was, but maybe it was easier to get a license there. It is only about 65 miles from Olton.

William was the third child of Charles Henry and Mellie Barton Smith. Charles was born in Texas but spent a number of years as a cotton farmer in Oklahoma where William was born in 1914. He was still

Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head of House	Gender	Race	Age	Birth Year	Marital Status	Attended School	Highest Grade Completed	Birthplace	on Farm	Occupation
1940 Census				Lamb, Te: Rented	15							
Smith	W M	Head	Male	White	26	1914	Married	No	High School, 4th year	Oklahoma	Yes	Farmer
Smith	Eloyce	Wife	Female	White	22	1918	Married	No	High School, 3rd year	Texas		
Smith	W M	Son	Male	White	3	1940	Single	No		Texas		

in Oklahoma in the 1930 Census, but must have moved to Olton around 1933 which enabled him at 19 to marry Eloyce who was 16. The 1930 Census shows William was still in Oklahoma working on his father's cotton farm. William had his older sister Opal and three brothers, Elbert, Fred, and Wayne. Elbert was older. The couple seemed to have waited a few years before starting their family, but their only child, William Melton Smith Jr arrived in Nov 1937 and they all appear in the 1940 Census in Olton on rented land for which they paid \$15/month. You can see their education below.

In 1940, William registered for the WW2 Draft. He was 26 and was working temporarily for the Texas Highway Department, but was normally a farmer in Littlefield. He and the family lived on Star Route, Olton. I seem to recall that my uncle's ranch had a Star Route address for many years and my research noted that Star routes were not really addresses, but referred to mail delivery contracts that the post office had to make sure that rural customers got their mail. Interesting. He was 5'-11"-143lbs-blue eyes-brown

Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head of House	Race	Gender	Age	Birth Date	Marital Status	Birth Place	Citizenship	Hours Worked	Occupation
1950 Census											
Smith	William M	Head	White	Male	36	1914	Married	Oklahoma		36	Farmer
Smith	Eloyce I	Wife	White	Female	32	1918	Married	Oklahoma		40	Secretary
Smith	William M	Son	White	Male	12	1938	Never Married	(Texas			

hair-light complexion. I have not found any evidence that William was called to serve during WW2. There was a William M. Smith that enlisted in Feb 1942 at Fort Bliss, TX, but there is not enough information to confirm if this was our William, and most men who served had some confirmation of that service when they died. I noticed that in 1950, he lived next door to his youngest brother Wayne and his wife Eva. The 1950 Census found William back to farming and Eloyce working as a secretary though I am not sure where.

Living his whole life on a farm in a small town in the Texas Panhandle does not lead to many bits of information about the Smiths. I have not found that William has any link to the Smith side of the family. Their only son, William Jr. married Geneva Bosley around 1955 and they seem to have had at least 3 children between 1957 and 1966.

William died in Lubbock in 1988. While I have not found an obituary for him, I did find this interesting story about his father's death in 1956. *Charles H. Smith Dies At Farm Home OLTON, Feb. 5 (Special) Charles H. Smith, 66, died of heart attack about midnight Saturday at his home in the Circle community about eight miles southwest of here. Smith, who was at the home with his wife, had been in ill health for several years.*

#### Eloyce Smith

(August 06, 1917 - March 31, 2014)

Eloyce Smith, 96, of Olton, died Monday, March 31, 2014, in Olton. Graveside services will be 11:00 A.M., Thursday, April 3, 2014 at Olton Cemetery with Gail Bizzell officiating and under the direction of Ramage Funeral Directors. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M., Wednesday, April 2, 2014.

Eloyce was born August 6, 1917, in Northfield, Texas to S.F. and Cora Smith Bennett. She was a lifetime Olton resident and married W.M. Smith, Sr. on June 11, 1933, in Clovis, New Mexico. She was a member of Main Street Church of Christ and devoted herself to serving others whenever needed at the church. She was a homemaker which included taking care of her family by working alongside them on the farm and at home. She was named Olton's Sandhills Queen in 1999.

She was preceded in death by her husband, W.M. Smith, Sr. in 1988, three sisters, one brother, and a grandson, Nicky Smith in 2000.

Survivors include her son W.M. "Billy" Smith, Jr. and his wife, Geneva, of Olton, two grandchildren, Ricky Smith and his wife, Deborah of Olton and Kelli Smith and her husband, Daniel of Olton, five great-grandchildren, Chris Smith, Crystal Salinas, Logan Smith, Zeppelin Smith, and Bonham Smith, and three great-great-grandchildren, Taelyn Salinas, Kurt Salinas, and Aiden Smith.



*His wife telephoned a daughter-in-law, Mrs. Fred Smith of Olton, and reported the death, however, no one was able to get to the home until 4 p.m. today. National Guardsmen from Plainview went to the home to pick up the body this morning and were to pick up the body of a Latin-American infant in Olton on the way back and take both bodies to Plainview, the nearest site of a funeral home. However, after picking up the body, the guardsmen apparently became stranded in the snow and nothing had been heard from them until a late hour tonight.*

*Funeral services are pending. Survivors include: his wife; three sons, Wayne, W. M., and Fred, all of Olton; a daughter, Mrs. J. E. Huckabee, Olton; and six grandchildren.*

Sue Buerk posted this obituary for Eloyce on Ancestry.

#### Child of William and Eloyce Bennett Smith

298 William Melton Smith Jr 1940 2023 Ivey and William Only Child

**298. William Melton Smith Jr** 19 JUN 1937 • Olton, TX - 6 NOV 2023 • Olton, TX

Geneva Ellen Bosely 29 OCT 1935 • Gainesville, TX - 25 FEB 2022 • Plainview

Marriage: 22 Jun 1956 • Olton, TX



William's obituary photo and Geneva's high school photo.

William was the only child born to William and Eloyce arriving in Olton in the heat of the summer of 1937. His father was a farmer and his mother in 1950 was a public-school secretary. I have not found a yearbook for him, nor any news articles so I will share what I find.

Based on his age of 12 in 1950, it would suggest that he probably graduated from high school around 1954, and then

Geneva's obituary he married Geneva Bosley in 1956 either in her home town of Tulia or his home of Olton. They are both small towns not too far apart in the Texas Panhandle. Geneva was the daughter of Richard Claude "Dick" and Ida Evans Bosley who were both from Gainesville, Texas. Her father was a

carpenter and builder. She had an older and a younger brother and she was two years older than Billy. They had the following children - Rickey Dale Smith 1957, Nicky Mel Smith 1958, and Kelli Ellen Smith 1966. They were all born in Lubbock.

Geneva died in 2022 and Billy the year after. Let's use their obituaries for family clues. Geneva's obituary reads:

**Geneva Ellen Smith**, 86, of Olton, died Friday, February 25, 2022, in Plainview, Texas. Graveside services will be held at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, February 27, 2022, at Olton Cemetery, with Evangelist Dallas Carrasco officiating and under the care of Ramage Funeral Directors. Visitation will be held from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m., Saturday, February 26, 2022, at Ramage Funeral Directors in Olton.

Geneva was born October 29, 1935, in Gainesville, Texas, to Richard and Ida Mae (Evans) Bosley. A lifetime area resident, Geneva married William Melvin "Billy" Smith, Jr., on June 22, 1956, and they were married over 65 years. Geneva worked various jobs for Olton ISD for many years. She was a teacher's assistant in the Special Education department, served as a substitute teacher, worked as the high school secretary, moved on to the bookkeeping office in administration, and finished as the Tax Assessor Collector, all for Olton ISD. She was very civic minded and involved in many community activities over the years. A member of Main Street Church of Christ, Geneva was a member of the Bridge Club, an avid reader, and was a talented cook. She had a green thumb and enjoyed working with her plants. Most of all, Geneva loved her dogs and her family, especially her grandchildren. Geneva was preceded in death by her parents, a brother, and a son, Nicky Smith, in 2000.

Survivors include her husband, Billy Smith of Olton, son, Ricky Smith and his wife Deborah of Alto, N.M., daughter, Kelli Smith and her husband Booner of Olton, and a brother, R.C. Bosley of Springfield, VA. She was blessed with five grandchildren: Chris Smith, Crystal Salinas and her husband Jeremy, Logan Smith, Zepplin Smith and his wife Treva, and Bonham Smith and six great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be made to the Olton Volunteer Ambulance Association PO Box 1087 Olton, Texas 79064.

Billy's obituary reads:

**W.M. "Billy" Smith, Jr.**, 86, of Olton, died Monday, November 6, 2023. Graveside services will be held at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, November 9, 2023, at Olton Cemetery under the direction of Ramage Funeral Directors. The funeral home will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Thursday, November 9, for anyone wanting to sign Billy's book.

Billy was born June 19, 1937, in Olton, Texas, to W.M. Sr. and Eloyce (Bennett) Smith. He graduated from Olton High School in 1955 and attended Abilene Christian College for a year where he met his future wife, Geneva Bosley. On June 22, 1956, Billy married Geneva and they were married for near 66 years. Billy was a pilot and enjoyed flying and crop dusting. He owned and operated Wood-Jordan International Harvesters and he was a farmer. Billy farmed in Mexico and around the Olton area for many years. He enjoyed harvest time and in his later years would drive around the farm watching as harvest took place and stop for an occasional meal in the field. An avid fisherman, Billy went on many fishing trips with friends to Venezuela, Mexico, the Amazon, and all-around Texas. He always had a story to tell and it was rare to hear the same one twice.

Billy was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Geneva Smith, in 2022, and his son, Nicky Smith, in 2000.

Survivors include his son, Ricky Smith and wife Deborah of Alto, N.M. and his daughter, Kelli Smith and husband Booner of Olton. He was blessed with five grandchildren: Chris Smith, Crystal Salinas and husband Jeremy, Logan Smith and fiancé McKenzie Sandefur, Zepplin Smith and wife Treva, and Bonham Smith and six great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Olton Volunteer Ambulance Association PO Box 1087 Olton, Texas 79064.

These obituaries confirm that they had three children as mentioned above. Ricky is married to Deborah and lives in New Mexico. Nicky died before his parents. Kelli is married to someone named Booner. There are 5 grandchildren that need to be sorted out.

I believe that I have found Rickey getting married to Deborah Lackey in 1974 and having a son, Logan in 1995. It seems strange that they waited 21 years to have a child. This covers Logan who was engaged in 2023 when his father grandfather died.

Son Nicky married Janet Deprang in 1980 and they had Christopher Shaun and Crystal Nicole Smith in 1981 and 1984. It seems that they divorced after Christopher's birth then remarried and had Crystal. After Nicky's death in 2000 she briefly married Gregory Smith for a year. All I have about Nicky is this from Findagrave: *Funeral services for Nicky Mel Smith, 41, of Inks Lake, were at 11 a.m. Monday in Trinity Church in Lubbock with the Rev. Rick Harper officiating. Burial arrangements were by Resthaven Funeral Home. Mr. Smith died Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2000, at his residence. He was born Dec. 11, 1958, in Lubbock. He grew up in Olton and owned and operated Valley Ag Electric.*

This accounts for Chris and Crystal (who is married to Jeremy Salinas)

Daughter Kelli married Daniel Ritchey Smith in Olton in 1985 and they had a son Zeppelin in 1985 in Olton. This is the Zeppelin who is married to Treva. Her husband is called Booner (or Bonner). I don't know if that was Daniel's nickname, but there is a Bonner Smith who pops up at Texas Tech and later as an attorney in Lubbock. I cannot identify who Bonham Smith is.

### Children of William Melton and Geneva Bosley Smith

731	Rickey Dale Smith	1957		William and Geneva's child#1
732	Nicky Mel Smith	1958	2000	William and Geneva's child#2
733	Kelli Ellen Smith	1956		William and Geneva's child#3

---

Thus ends the Cora and Summie Bennett line of the William Lawson line. Quite an adventure. Completed 7 Feb 2025.

A bonus story about Olive Brown's youngest brother Hardy Brown - <https://petesperspective.com/the-masonic-home-mighty-mites-monroe-journal-may-31-2018/>

A little excerpt: *After graduating from the Masonic School in 1940, Hardy Brown signed a scholarship with the University of Tulsa where he was All Missouri Valley Conference linebacker for three years. The 6-foot, 190-pound Brown played for 10 seasons in the National Football League with the Baltimore Colts, San Francisco 49ers, and Washington Redskins. Hardy Brown ranks No. 5 on the Top 10 Hardest Hitters in NFL history list.*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hardy\\_Brown](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hardy_Brown) - another couple of stories about Hardy  
<https://www.sfgate.com/49ers/article/49ers-meanest-player-nfl-history-18624227.php>

I'm adding these stories to help try and understand why Summie's sons were so mean. I don't know if there was a mean "gene" in the Brown family, but there seems to have been a pattern of violence. Shortly Olive and Summie married, her father was shot to death in front of her younger brothers who were sent off to the Masonic Orphanage in Fort Worth. These stories talk about how violent Hardy was. The next older brother Reb John Brown had multiple convictions and was in the Tulsa jail for the 1940 Census. It's an interesting and somewhat sad tale.