

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 Ernest and Isabella before delving into the children.

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

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

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- 26. Dolores Lola Smith** 3 FEB 1895 • Gainesville, TX - 29 JULY 1980 • Amarillo, Potter County, TX
Charles Bennett 26 FEB 1883 • Williamson, TX - 29 MARCH 1971 • Groom, Carson County, TX
Marriage: 6 Nov 1911 • Matador, Motley, TX – per his obituary



Charlie and Lola's gravestone from Findagrave.

Lola was William and Emily's 10th and final child. While she claims Gainesville as her birthplace, my earlier explanation would suggest that it was more likely Bartlett. She appears as Delores in 1900 and Lola in 1910, and then does not reappear in the Census until 1930 at which point she and Charlie Bennett are living in Cottle County in the Texas Panhandle working on a farm with their 3 sons, Lonnie Clifford Bennett 1912, William Losson Bennett 1914, and Ova Vestal Bennett 1922. The census shows that Charlie was 24 when they married in 1911 and Lola had been 16. The boys were 17, 15, and 7 causing one to wonder if she perhaps lost a child between 1915 and 1923. Charlie registered for the WW1 Draft in 1917 at which time they lived at Northfield TX which is an area in Cottle County. He had been born in Williamson County and was married with 2 children which would have been Lonnie and Bill. From what I have pieced together, Charlie's father was George Walter Bennet and his mother was Lucy Ward Bennet. Looking deeper, it appears that his father was the brother of Summie Fee Bennet who was of course the husband of Lola's oldest surviving sister, Cora. Let's see – Lola's husband is the nephew of his brother-in-law. To my family, my sister Kathryn would have had to marry Bruce's nephew. Bruce's nephews are Nathan or one of his sister's sons.

Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head of House	Gender	Race	Age	Estimated Birth Year	Marital Status	School or College	Highest Grade Completed	Birthplace	Citizenship	Residence City in 1938	Employment Details	Week of Prior to Unemployment	Occupation
1940 Census	Childress, Texas	Rented	2												
Bennett	Charlie B	Head	Male	White	51	1889	Married	No	Elementary school, 6th grade	Texas		Rural	No	20	Farmer
Bennett	Lola	Wife	Female	White	45	1895	Married	No	High School, 1st year	Texas		Rural	Home Housework		
Bennett	Vestal O	Son	Male	White	18	1922	Single	No	Elementary school, 7th grade	Texas		Rural	No	40	Laborer

Children of Charlie and Lola.

118	Lonnie Clifford Bennett	1913	1986	Charles and Dolores Child#1
119	William Losson Bennett	1915	2011	Charles and Dolores Child#2
120	Ova Vestal Bennett	1922	1997	Charles and Dolores Child#3

118. Lonnie Clifford Bennett 9 AUG 1912 • Hall County, TX - 12 SEP 1986 • Potter County, TX
 Margie Elma Cross 1 OCT 1917 • Kirkland, TX - 3 DEC 2016 • Lubbock, TX
 Married: 23 Mar 1936 – Childress, TX - per her obituary



Lonnie and Margie “Ted” Cross’s grave marker and “Ted’s” photo from Findagrave in Claude, TX.

Lonnie was the first of three children born to Charles and Lola Smith Bennet arriving in Hall County on 9 Aug 1912 which is a county up in the Panhandle southeast of Amarillo. Since I am missing the 1920 Census for his family, he does not show up until 1930 when he is 17 and still at home on the family farm in Cottle, TX with his parents and his younger brother and sister. Cottle County is a little further south of Hall County and its county seat is Paducah. He seems to have gone by Bud, and as we will see, he named his son Buddy.

Per his wife’s obituary (who apparently went by Ted) they were married Mar 1936 and two daughters arrived in short order with Starlene Bennett in 1936, and Willdene Bennett in 1939. These 4 appear in the 1940 Census in Cottle County where Lonnie is farming and they are living in a rental that costs \$4/month. You can see their education and note that Lonnie was 4 years older than Ted. I wish that all census enumerators were as neat and diligent as theirs were that year. Many of them are nearly unreadable, but this gentleman did a wonderful job.

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	Cottle, Texas				4							
Bennett	Lonnie C	Head	Male	White	27	1913	Married	No	High School, 1st year	Texas	Yes	Farm Laborer
Bennett	Morgie E	Wife	Female	White	23	1917	Married	No	Elementary school, 7th grade	Texas		
Bennett	Starlene	Daughter	Female	White	2	1938	Single	No	None	Texas		
Bennett	Willie D	Daughter	Female	White	1	1939	Single	No	None	Texas		

Yes	Bennett, Lonnie C	head	M	W	27	M	No H
	Margie E.	wife	F	W	23	M	No 7
	Starlene	daughter	F	W	2	S	No 0
	Willie D.	daughter	F	W	1	S	No 0

Lonnie registered for the WW2 Draft in Oct 1940 when he was 28. He was living on the Childress Cee Vee Route in Cottle County, TX and working for W. W. Goundie. His father, Charles Bennett was his point of contact and he lived near Childress. He was 5’-11”-150lbs-brown eyes-brown hair-light complexion. I have not found any evidence that Lonnie enlisted or was drafted. I guess he needed a new farmhand, because in 1947, they had

Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head of House	Race	Gender	Age	Birth Date	Marital Status	Birth Place	Citizenship	Hours Worked	Occupation
1950 Census	Naylor Road	Donley, Texas									
Bennett	Lonnie C	Head	White	Male	40	1913	Married	Texas		48	Farm Work
Bennett	Margie A	Wife	White	Female	32	1918	Married	Texas			
Bennett	Starlene	Daughter	White	Female	12	1938	Never Married	(Texas			
Bennett	Willdene	Daughter	White	Female	10	1940	Never Married	(Texas			
Bennett	Buddy Joe	Son	White	Male	2	1948	Never Married	(Texas			

a son, Buddy Joe Bennett. The 1950 Census found that they had moved a bit north to Donley County

probably in the vicinity of Clarendon which is about 60 miles southeast of Amarillo. He was now 37 and still farming with two pre-teen daughters and a baby son. Margie was 32.

Farmers in small towns in west Texas don't seem to have generated many headlines. When searching the news for him the only this that I came up with was a Lonnie Bennet who was replacing Jim Bertleson as the University of Texas running back. Not our Lonnie. I'll do a quick check of the children to see what might come up.

In 1958, Starlene married William Pike III, the son of a geologist from Louisiana. He was in the Air Force when they married and had been training at Shepherd AFB. They had a daughter Debra Ann Pike in 1959.

They seem to have lived closer Wellington, TX than Clarendon or on a farm nearby, because I found an article from 1947 showing Starlene and Willdene both in the 2nd grade in Wellington and getting good grades. I have not found any records, but she married someone named Rouch. The only thing that I have so far found about her is a Willdene Rouch taking nurses training in Fort Worth in 1968. It's a unique name so I suspect that this is our Willdene. She died in 2022 in Lubbock. Buddy Joe seems to have married Vickie Powell in 1968 in Castro, TX. That is about the extent of my findings.

Lonnie died in Amarillo in 1986, but I have not found an obituary. Margie died in Lubbock at the age of 99 in 2016. Her obituary reads:

Margie Elma Bennett

October 1, 1917 - December 3, 2016

SERVICES – 2:00 PM Tuesday, December 6, 2016 in the Robertson Funeral Directors Saints' Roost Chapel in Clarendon with Chris Moore, officiating.

INTERMENT – Claude Cemetery in Claude.

ARRANGEMENTS - Robertson Funeral Directors of Clarendon.

Mrs. Bennett was born October 1, 1917 in Kirkland, Texas to John D. and Willie May Cross. She married Lonnie Clifford Bennett on March 23, 1936 in Childress. She enjoyed working at the nursing home in Clarendon for 20 years prior to her retirement. She had been a resident of Clarendon and Colorado Springs before moving to Lubbock 15 years ago. She was a member of the Church of Christ.

PRECEDED IN DEATH BY – her parents; her husband on September 12, 1986; a grandchild; and several brothers and sisters.

SURVIVORS – a son, Joe Bennett of Lubbock; 2 daughters, Starlene Lindsay and Willdene Rouch both of Lubbock; 3 grandchildren; 8 great grandchildren; and 6 great great grandchildren.

MEMORIALS- The family request memorials be sent to Hospice of Lubbock.

Children of Lonnie and Margie

322	Starlene Bennett	1936	XXXX	Lonnie and Margie Child#1
323	Willdene Bennett	1939	2022	Lonnie and Margie Child#2
324	Buddy Joe Bennett	1947	XXXX	Lonnie and Margie Child#3

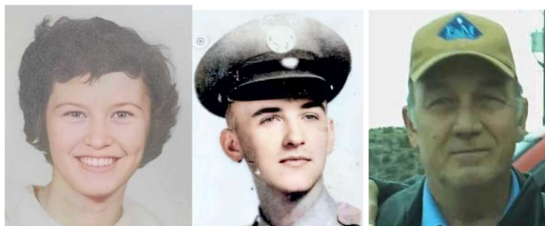
322. Starlene Lindsay Bennett 31 MAY 1936 • Texas – Living?

#1 William Sibley Pike III 27 AUG 1936 • Hamlin, TX- Living?

Marriage: abt 1958

#2 Mark Anthony Lindsay 13 SEP 1949 • Vincennes, IN - 7 NOV 2010 • Donley County, TX

Marriage: 9 Jun 1990 • Dickens, TX



Starlene's yearbook. News photo of William. Ancestry photo of Mark.

Lonnie and Margie's first child was Starlene who arrived in May 1936 in the middle of the depression in Cottle County where her father was working on a farm

probably near Paducah. She was joined by a little sister in 1939 and they appear in the 1940 Census. By 1950, they had moved a little north to a farm near Clarendon and they now had a little brother, Buddy Joe.

She attended high school in Claude, TX where I found her as a freshman in 1954 which means that she probably graduated in 1956 or 1957. I found her younger sister graduating in 1957 and the yearbooks for 1955 and 1956 are missing. In the late 1950's she met a young man who from Louisiana named Will Pike III who was in the Air Force and probably stationed at Dyess AFB in Abilene as they had a daughter, Deborah Ann Pike in Abilene on 26 July 1959. (That's exactly a year before my youngest sister), The next thing we hear about them is an article from Metairie, LA in Apr 1960:

Airman First Class William S. Pike III, son of Mr. and Mrs. William S. Pike Jr., 269 Hollywood Drive, Metairie, was graduated recently from the aircraft maintenance technician course at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.

Airman Pike is a graduate of St. Martin's school in Metairie. He is married to the former Miss Starlene Bennett of Amarillo, Texas and they have one child, Deborah Ann.

Airman Pike came to Sheppard AFB from Dyess AFB, Texas. Sheppard AFB is one of the 26 bases comprising Air Training Command. Third largest of the major air commands, ATC trains personnel in America's expanding aerospace force in which manned aircraft, missiles and spacecraft provide the world with its best guarantee of peace through deterrence.

Will's parents were both from Maryland and his father was a geologist working in the Louisiana oilfields in 1950. He appears to have been an only child. In August 1954 he completed his registration for the Selective Service while attending the University of the South in Sewanee, TN. He was 5'-9 1/2"-140lbs-blue eyes-blond hair-ruddy. His home address was 269 Hollywood Dr., New Orleans. Shortly after registering in 1954, he enlisted in the Air Force. He had been born Hamlin, TX in Aug 1936 which is just north of Abilene and where my aunt Kathryn was raised. I'm a little confused here as this would suggest that he graduated from high school in 1953 when he was 17 and headed off to college for a brief time before enlisting. Meanwhile, Starlene was only a freshman in 1954 yet they were the same age.

In the 1959 New Orleans City Directory, they were living in New Orleans at the 269 Hollywood address with Will's parents and his father was working for Shell Oil. His parents came from a Quaker family and his father was a prominent geologist who had earned a PHD and gone to work for Shell in 1934 and contributed significantly to Shell's success in offshore oil production. When he died in 1985, a portion of his obituary noted: *Bill is survived by his wife Betty of Signal Mountain: his son Bill. daughter-in-law Mary. and grandson Barry. all of Kalamazoo. Michigan: and his granddaughter Deborah Goette. of Ypsilanti, Michigan. A great grandson. Dennis Goette. Jr. was born in late 1985.*

This suggests that by 1985, Will and Starlene were no longer married and that daughter Deborah had married Dennis Goette in the 1980's and had a daughter that she named after herself. I get the impression that Will may have had a career in the Air Force. He also has a son, Barry and I do not know if this is a child that he and Starlene had or a child that Will and new wife Mary had. Starlene's mother's obituary does not name her grandchildren.

While I cannot find marriage or divorce records for Deborah and Dennis, I did find that in 1988, a Deborah Pike married a Cale Dansbee in Wichita Falls, TX. Cale seems to have been in the Air Force and in 1996 was reportedly injured in a deadly blast in Saudi Arabia while on a 90-day assignment with his unit from Nellis AFB in Nevada. The terrorist bombing killed 19 US Servicemen.

In 1990, Starlene married a 2nd time to Mark Anthony Lindsay. Mark was born in 1949 in Indiana, but by 1950 was living in Odessa, TX with his parents, Carter and Margaret Lindsay and 4 older sisters ranging in age from 6 to 15 born in Kentucky and Illinois before his birth in Indiana. Surprisingly, he was 13 years younger than Starlene and had married Irene William of Arizona in the late 1960's and they had a son, Anthony in Apr 1970 and Monte Lindsay in Feb 1974 in Riverside, CA.

Son Monte died in 2008 and Mark died in 2010. His obituary reads:
BRIDGEPORT, Ill. - Mark A. Lindsay, 61, died November 7, 2010, at Lubbock, Texas.

Survivors include his wife, Starlene of Clarendon: son, Anthony Lindsay of Indiana; brothers, Monty McMinn and Mike McMinn: sisters, Louise Young and Margie Cordell: nine grandchildren: and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Monty Lindsay; two sisters, Beth Girton and Carroll Lindsay. Services will be private. Cunningham Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Unfortunately, this does not shed much light on Starlene's daughter Deborah, but suggests that in 2010, Starlene may have been living in Lubbock.

Child of Starlene Bennet and William Pike

767 Deborah Ann Pike 1959 Starlene and William Pike's child

323. Willdene Bennett 10 JAN 1939 • Childress, TX - 30 OCT 2022 • Lubbock, TX

Henry John Roach OCT 1936 • ??? – Living

Married: 8 June 1957 – Washburn (per her obit = a very small town near Amarillo)



Willdene was the 2nd child born to Lonnie and Margie Bennet arriving in Childress on 10 July 1939. She graduated from Claude High School in 1957 and her credits are shown here.

WILLDENE BENNETT

F.H. A. 9-12

Choral Club 9-12

Mixed Chorus 10-12

Pep Squad 9-12

Again, I have been unable to find marriage records of much about her husband, but they appear to have married in the early 1960's and had a son, Henry Roach, Jr in Abilene on 13 May 1963 which may suggest that like William Pike, Harry may have been in the Air Force. (Speculation based on her sister's path). From there. The only information that I found is from her obituary at the time of her death in 2022. It reads:

***Willdene Rouch**, 83, of Lubbock died Sunday, October 30, 2022 in Lubbock. Graveside services will be 2:00 PM Friday, November 4, 2022 in Claude Cemetery in Claude with Dr. David Belk, officiating.*

Arrangements are by Robertson Funeral Directors of Clarendon. Willdene was born January 10, 1939 in Childress to Lonnie Clifford and Margie Alma Cross Bennett. She married Harry John Rouch on June 8, 1957 in Washburn. She had been a resident of Colorado Springs, Colorado before moving to Lubbock 20 years ago. She was an LVN prior to her retirement where she worked mostly in nursing homes. Willdene loved decorating different things. She was preceded in death by her parents; and her son, Harry Rouch, Jr. Survivors include her husband Harry Rouch of Lubbock; her brother, Joe Bennett of Lubbock; her sister, Star Lindsay of Lubbock; and her grandchildren, Harry Rouch, III and Lonnie Clifford Rouch. The family request memorials be sent to the Salvation Army.

What we can deduce from this is that they lived in Lubbock from 2002 to 2022 after having lived in Colorado Springs which again suggests that Harry may have been in the Air Force as there is a big Air Force presence in that area. We note that as of 2022, Harry was still alive but that their son had died before her, but not before getting married and having a son Harry Roach III. With his birth in 1963, he probably married around 1983-1990, probably in Colorado and then records show that he died on 21 Jul 2001 and is buried in Logan National Cemetery in Denver. My initial thought was that maybe he died in the Afghanistan invasion following 9/11, but his death was 3 months before that action. His grave marker notes that he did serve in the Persian Gulf War. He may have been one of the unfortunate soldiers who suffered from PTSD but I have found no details of his demise. He does not appear on the official casualty list.

HARRY J ROUCH JR – SGT - US ARMY - PERSIAN GULF

MAY 15 1963 - JUL 27 2001

Child of Willdene Bennett and Harry J Rouch

768 Harry J Roach 1963 2001 Willdene and Harry Roach's child

324. Buddy Joe Bennett 11 JUN 1947 • Donley, TX - Living
 Vickie Latrelle Powell 7 JUL 1950 • Castro, TX - Living
 Marriage: 8 Jun 1968 • Castro, TX



Buddy came along 11 years after his next older sister so he was probably abused by his two big sisters who probably fought over who had to babysit him. He arrived in the summer of 1947 as the war was over and the baby boom was underway. He was too young for Korea, but may well have faced the reality of being drafted to serve in Vietnam, though I have not record of either of these folks after high school and marriage. Buddy was a junior at Claude HS in 1964, but I could not find him in any Senior yearbook, but I supposed that he graduated in 1965. Vickie lived in nearby Dimmitt and graduated in 1968 and she and Buddy married right after graduation. She had one younger sister, Cindy Powell who was born in 1954 and died in 2018 from early onset Alzheimer's. In her obituary she mentions her sister Vickie Bennett lived in Lubbock. I found one daughter Amy Dawn Bennett who was born on 22 Nov 1972 (my dad's birthday). When last seen, she was attending Texas Tech in Lubbock in 1992.

Child of Buddy and Vickie Powell Bennett

769 Amy Dawn Bennett 1972 Buddy Jo and Vickie's child.

This completes the Lonnie and Margie Bennett branch. It was completed on 22 Feb 2025. Corrections and updates to rbills_houston@yahoo.com

119. William Losson Bennett 24 NOV 1914 • Ft Worth, TX - 21 SEP 2011 • Clarendon, TX
 #1 Mary Alice Parker 9 DEC 1920 • Harmon County, OK - 13 MAY 1970 • Lubbock, TX
 Married: About 1938 - Texas
 #2 Florine Butler Stephens 24 JAN 1917 • Lakeview, TX - 22 OCT 2006 • Clarendon. TX
 Marriage: 13 Oct 1970 • Potter, TX



The grave marker for Bill, Mary, and their son, Larry who died in 1956. Bill's photo posted by Keetch Brothers on Ancestry.

William who I believe mainly went by Bill was Charles and Lola's 2nd child arriving right about Thanksgiving in 1914 when his parents must have made a detour to Fort Worth. Bill introduces some challenges for me. First, his middle name is given as Losson and this has

been taken from his WW2 Draft Registration. I'm of the impression, that his middle name was really Lawson after his grandfather. This is supported by the 1940 Census which clearly lists his son's name as Larry Lawson Bennett. The other thing that confuses me is that there is a note on her Findagrave that they married in 1943, but their first child was born in 1939 in Oklahoma. This suggests that either the Findagrave note is incorrect, or Mary had another husband, or they just lived together for a few years before tying the knot. Since they appear together in the 1940 Census with a young son Larry, I'm inclined to believe that the 1943 date is an error.

Looking at the 1940 Census, we see that Bill had only gone to school through the 7th grade whereas Mary had a year of high school. They lived in Donley County where much of the family lived and Bill was 25 and Mary was 18. Both Mary and her son had been born in Oklahoma. Mary was the youngest of 10 children born to Sherrod Parker and Lucinda Martin. She had 4 older sisters and 5 older brothers and their birth pattern is curious. The oldest was born in Texas in 1900 and then the next 4 were born in Oklahoma before the 6th was born in Johnson County, TX in 1910 and then 7 through 9 were born in Quanah, TX between 1912 and 1917. Finally, Mary was born in 1922 in Oklahoma. There are a lot of Oklahoma school records for his children through 1926, and then in 1930 he was in Cottle County in the Texas Panhandle. That explains Mary's birth in Oklahoma, but I cannot figure out why her son was born there.

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			Donley, T	Rented	5							
Bennett	W L	Head	Male	White	25	1915	Married	Yes	Elementary school, 7th grade	Texas	Yes	Farmer
Bennett	Mary Alice	Wife	Female	White	18	1922	Married	No	High School, 1st year	Oklahoma		
Bennett	Larry Lawson	Son	Male	White	12-Jun	1939	Single	No	None	Oklahoma		

In 1940, Bill registered for the WW2 Draft and here is where we see him use the middle name



Losson. Not to be disrespectful, but my impression is that Bill just had a little problem with his spelling. His wife Mary was the informant on the 1940 Census and she spelled her son's name correctly, however on his death certificate, the son is back to Losson. There must have been a family argument. Anyway, Bill was 25 and they lived on the Naylor Route outside of Clarendon. His wife was his point of contact. He was 5'-8"-140lbs-brown eye-brown hair-ruddy complexion.

Between 1940 and 1950, they moved to Hale County probably near Plainview which is a little north of Lubbock. Bill was still farming and claimed to be putting in 70 hours/week. They lived on North County Line Road. Bill was 31, Mary 29, and Larry was 9. A son Jimmy eventually. I have not been able to find his birth or death information, but he is mentioned in obituaries of his parents so I will keep looking. We know that he was born after 1950 because he does not appear in the 1950 Census of Bill of his future wife.

Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head of House	Race	Gender	Age	Birth Date	Marital Status	Birth Place	Citizenship	Hours Worked	Occupation
1950 Census	400 North County Line		Hale, Texas								
Bennett	William L	Head	White	Male	31	1919	Married	Texas		70	Farmer
Bennett	Mary Alice	Wife	White	Female	29	1921	Married				
Bennett	Larry L	Son	White	Male	9	1941	Never Married (Single)				

After 1950, The Bennet's seemed to have had a rough spell. In 1956, their son Larry was killed in a car accident in Plainview. An account of the accident is here:

Wreck Near Plainview Hurts Four. March 17 — An Olton high school student died here tonight of injuries suffered 30 minutes earlier in a 7 p.m. automobile accident which injured four youthful companions, none apparently seriously. Plainview Hospital-Clinic attendants said Larry Bennett, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bennett of Olton, died of internal injuries a few minutes after reaching the hospital.

His death marked the 26th traffic fatality on the South Plains this year, as compared to 24 killed at this time in 1955. It was Hale County's first 1956 traffic fatality. Other Youths Hospitalized The injured youths, all from Olton, were identified as Terry Allen, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Allen; Thurman Adams, 15, son of Mrs. Corine Clayton; Alvin Wallace, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Wallace; and Charles Ray Moore, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Moore. Attending physicians said none of the youths appeared seriously injured, but that all would be held in the hospital, at least over-night, for observation. Highway patrolmen said the one-car accident happened four miles west of here on U.S. Highway 70.

The car, driven by Bennett, reportedly ran off the right side of the road, overturned several times, and came to rest beyond the bar ditch in a field. Lloyd Graham, Plainview, said he arrived at the scene seconds after the accident happened, and found the youths strewn for several hundred feet along the right-of-way. Graham sped to a nearby farm house and called an ambulance.

When I first read that in the Lubbock Avalanche Journal and saw the name, Terry Allen, I was wondering if that was the same Terry Allen who is a very famous musician and artist from Lubbock who you may or may not have heard of, but if not, you should listen to some of his music. You can read about him here [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terry_Allen_\(artist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terry_Allen_(artist)) but he's not the same guy, but I love Terry Allen.

Olton Woman Dies Of Crash Injuries

OLTON — An Olton resident, Mrs. Mary Alice Bennett, 49, who was injured in a car-pickup crash last week that took the life of her sister, died Wednesday morning in University Hospital in Lubbock.

Mrs. Bennett's husband, Bill, was treated and released following the accident.

The driver of the pickup, Walter Lewis of Olton, was undergoing treatment today in Methodist Hospital in Lubbock.

His son, Gordon Lewis, who was a passenger in the truck, was not injured.

Mrs. Bennett's sister, Mrs. Ruby Vera Smith, was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash about 3 miles southwest of Olton at the intersection of two unpaved county roads.

Funeral services for Mrs.

Bennett, a native of Hollis, Okla., will be held at 3 p.m. Friday in the Main Street Church of Christ.

G. B. Staley of San Antonio and Douglas Lawyer, minister of the Main Street Church of Christ, will officiate.

Burial will be in the Olton Cemetery by Parsons Funeral Home.

Mrs. Bennett moved to Olton from Clarendon 23 years ago. She was a member of the Church of Christ.

Survivors include her husband; a son, Jimmy Bennett of 925 Gardenia in Amarillo; five brothers, Jim and O. D. Parker, both of Austin, Roy Parker of Altus, Okla., and Rome and Leath Parker, both of Oklahoma City; two sisters, Mrs. L. C. Gaylean and Mrs. Roy Rains, both of Austin, and one grandchild.

In 1970, Bill and Mary, and Mary's widowed sister Ruby were involved in an accident described here: As you can see, Bill survived, but Mary and her sister were both killed. From this we learn that Bill had moved to Clarendon about 1947 and had a son in Amarillo in 1970. The other survivors are Mary's brothers and sisters.

Following Mary's death, Bill married Florine Butler Stephens, a recently widowed lady with a daughter named Betty Jo who had been born in 1940. She was probably already married to Lonnie Parr when Bill and Flo married. Florine died in 2006. Bill died in 2011. Their obituaries appear below courtesy of Keetch Brothers.



Florine (Butler) Stephens Bennett Obituary

LARENDON - Florine Butler Stephens Bennett, 89, died Sunday, Oct. 22, 2006. Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday in Church of Christ in Clarendon with Eddie Stegall, minister, and Don Stone, Church of Christ minister, officiating. Burial will be in Memorial Park Cemetery in Amarillo by Robertson Funeral Directors of Clarendon.

Mrs. Bennett was born Jan. 24, 1917, in Deeplake to J.H. and Mattie Anthony Butler. She married Elbert Stephens on Jan. 3, 1939, in Memphis. He preceded her in death in March 1969. She married Bill Bennett on Oct. 13, 1970, in Amarillo. She had been a resident of Clarendon and Donley County since 1974. She was a homemaker and member of Clarendon Church of Christ.

Special thanks to Dr. Amit Trehan and staff at BSA Hospital.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; two brothers; and a sister.

Survivors include her husband, Bill Bennett; a daughter, Betty Parr and husband Lonnie of Amarillo; a son, Jimmy Bennett and wife Oleta of Amarillo; five grandchildren, Vay Ender, Keith Parr, Steve Parr and wife Misti and Larry Bennett, all of Amarillo, and Rhonda Bennett of Lubbock; and three great-grandchildren, T.C. Parr, Arian Parr and Austin Parr.

The family suggests memorials be to High Plains Children's Home, P.O. Box 7448, Amarillo, TX 79114-7448.

After the funeral, the family will be at 7900 Goodnight Trail in Amarillo.

Amarillo Globe-News, Oct. 25, 2006

Obituary of

William "Bill" Losson Bennett
Nov 24, 1914 - Sept 21, 2011
CLARENDON



SERVICES- 2:00 PM Sunday, September 25, 2011 in the Clarendon Church of Christ with Chris Moore, officiating.

INTERMENT- Olton Cemetery in Olton.

Arrangements are by Robertson Funeral Directors of Clarendon.

Bill was born November 24, 1914 in Childress County, Texas to Charlie & Lola Bennett. He married Mary Alice Parker on December 11, 1937. She preceded him in death on May 13, 1970. He then married Florine Butler Stephens on October 13, 1970. She preceded him in death on October 22, 2006. He had been a resident of Olton and Clarendon most of his life. Bill loved being a farmer and rancher. He was a member of the Clarendon Church of Christ.

PRECEDED IN DEATH BY - his parents; 2 sons, Larry and Jimmy Bennett; and 2 brothers, Bud and Vestal Bennett.

SURVIVORS - a step daughter, Betty Parr and husband Lonnie of Amarillo; a daughter in law, Oleta Bennett of Amarillo; 5 grandchildren, Rhonda Bennett, Larry Bennett, Vay Ender, Keith Parr, and Steve Parr and wife Misty; 4 great grandchildren; and loved by several nieces and nephews.

MEMORIALS- The family request memorials be made to the Clarendon Church of Christ.

THE FAMILY WILL BE AT: 821 South Thurman / Clarendon, Texas 79226

From these we can learn that in 2006, son James or Jimmy Bennett was alive and married to Oleta. We then see in 2011, that Jimmy had died before his father. I think that I have found records of a James

Clifford Bennett marrying an Uleta Lavelle Gooding in 1998 and then Oleta Bennett and James Bennett divorced in 2000. This sort of contradicts Florine's obituary showing that they were still together in 2006. The only conclusion I can draw is that the divorce did not proceed or that they got back together, and then sometime between 2006 and 2011, Jimmy died, but I have not found any record to confirm this.

Children of William L. and Mary Parker Bennett

325	Larry Losson Bennett	1939	1956	William and Mary Child#1
326	Jimmy Bennett	1950	2006	William and Mary Child#2

325. Larry Losson Bennett 25 OCT 1939 • Hollis, OK - 17 MAR 1956 • Plainview, TX



William and Mary's first child was Larry Bennett who was born in Hollis, OK in time to make the 1940 Census. I suspect that his mother had gone back to be with her mother for his birth which would explain the reason for his birth in Oklahoma. His father was farming in the Olton area. In 1955, he was a freshman at Olton high school and in the spring of his freshman year he and some of his high school buddies drove over to nearby Plainview and with Larry at the wheel, he accidentally drove off the road and the car flipped multiple times resulting in his death and the injury of his friends.

Services Scheduled For Accident Victim

OLTON, March 19 (Special) - Funeral services for Larry Bennett, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bennett of Olton who died Saturday night near Plainview, will be held at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Olton High School auditorium.

Conducting the service will be S. A. Freeman, Church of Christ minister from Las Vegas, N. M., and E. R. Higgins, minister of the Olton Church of Christ. Bennett is survived by his parents.

Meanwhile, one of the four teenagers injured in the accident which killed young Bennett was dismissed Sunday from Plainview Hospital and the other three were in good condition.

Terry Allen, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Allen, was dismissed. Thurman Adams, 15, son of Mrs. Corine Clayton, received broken ribs and a possible fractured shoulder; Alvin Wallace, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Wallace, received abrasions; and Charles Ray Moore, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Moore, received a possible concussion.

326. James Clifford Bennett May 1980 • Lamb, TX - Death After 2006 and before 2001 • Texas

Uleta Lavelle Gooding 8 OCT 1980 • Franklin, TX – Living

Marriage: 14 Jun 1998 • Franklin, TX – Div 5 Jul 2000

James has been a little hard to figure out. As I dug deeper, I discovered that he was actually born in May 1980 at which time his "father" would have been 66 and his "mother" would have been 63, so he is clearly not their child. My only thought is that he was adopted by William and his 2nd wife Florine Butler. We know that James could not have been her son from another marriage as she only had one child with her first husband who died in 1969 and she then married William.

In Jun 1998, he married Uleta Gooding in Franklin, TX which is south of Waco. They divorced 2 years later with no children.

Uleta was born to Billy Don Gooding and Carolyn Daughtry who married in 1971 after her divorce from her 1st husband, Frank Kuhl which resulted in no children. Carolyn and Billy divorced in 1981 after having 2 children, but then married and divorced again between 1984 and 1986. Carolyn died in 1993 before Uleta's marriage.

Meanwhile, it looks like Billy married Madeleen Compton in 1989 who was coming off of her first 11 year marriage to David Sanders with one child. After Billy and Carolyn divorced a 2nd time, Billy and Madeleen remarried in 1989. While they had been divorced, she married Bobby McVay between 1986 and 1988.

Billy died in 1999, before Uleta's marriage, and Madeleen married Edwin Blair in 2000 before dying in 2001. I don't know where Uleta was during all of this turmoil, but somehow, she made it through to marry James. It looks like after she and James divorced in 2000, she married Timothy Butler in May 2001 and they divorced in 2010 after having two children. After that, she married Andrew Anthony in 2010 and divorced in 2012 in Franklin, TX.

This completes the William Losson wives branch. It was completed on 23 Feb 2025. Corrections and updates to rbills_houston@yahoo.com

120. Ova Vestal Bennett 26 APR 1922 • Childress, TX - 13 FEB 1997 • Donley, TX
 #1 Virginia Nell Parsons 24 MAY 1931 • Lela, TX - 13 MAY 1970 • Amarillo, TX
 Married: 12 Aug 1950 – Clovis, NM - per her obituary
 #2 Jerrie Lou Pounds 25 JAN 1930 • Hereford, TX - 28 SEP 2002 • Clarendon, TX
 Marriage: 13 Oct 1970 • Potter, TX



Grave markers of Vestal, Virginia, and Jerrie from Findagrave in Claud, TX.

The final child born to Charlie and Lola Bennett was their son Ova Vestal who arrived in Childress, TX in April 1922. He appears in the 1930, 1940 and 1950 Censuses in his parent's home. In 1950, the census doesn't give us much information. He's 28 and still at home presumably helping his aging parents on their farm. We know that in 1942 when he turned 20, he registered for the WW2 Draft at which time he was living in Clarendon. I guess he didn't like his given name of Ova as he said his name was Vestal (NMN) Bennett. His father, Charles was his point of contact and he was working for Russell Barnett in Claud, TX. Clarendon and Claud are just 27 miles apart. He was 5'-10 1/2"-150lbs-blue eyes-brown hair-light complexion. He also noted that he had a crippled left foot and a slight limp. This must have kept him out of the war as I see no evidence of his having served.

Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head of House	Race	Gender	Age	Birth Date	Marital Status	Birth Place	Citizenship	Hours Worked	Occupation
1950 Census		Hedley, Donley, Texas									
Bennett	Charlie B	Head	White	Male	61	1889	Married	Texas			
Bennett	Lola	Wife	White	Female	55	1895	Married	Texas			
Bennett	Estal	Son	White	Male	28	1922	Never Married	(Texas			

The 1950 Census was held in April, and per Virginia's obituary they got married in August of 1950 in Clovis, NM. Marriage records in New Mexico are hard to come by, so I will have to take her word for it. They got busy building a family with the arrival of the following children over the course of the next few years - Janice Bennett 1951, Danny Bennett 1953, Dickey Don Bennett 1956, Larry Don Bennett 1960, Laura Donna Bennett 1960, and Tonja Bennett 1963. You will note that we have another set of twins in the family with Larry and Laura in 1960.

Virginia was the daughter of Aaron and Alice Clinch Parsons and she the 7th of 10 children in her family with 6 sisters and 3 brothers with birthdays beginning in 1919 through 1936. Her mother had died in 1940 when she was only 9 leaving her father a widower with 10 children ranging in age from 21 to 4 so I suspect she received a lot of upbringing from her older siblings.

In 1970, Virginia sadly followed in her mother's footsteps by dying young from cancer. She was only 38 and left Vestal with a houseful of 6 children who would have been 7 to 19. They were living in

Washburn, TX when she was stricken with skin cancer and within 4 weeks after being taken to Northwest Hospital in Amarillo, she succumbed to the cancer. Washburn is a small community just east of Amarillo.

In Oct 1970, five months after Virginia's death, Vestal married Jerrie Pounds Pate. Jerrie was initially married to Otis Pate, a Georgia boy. They ironically married in Clovis, NM in 1948, shortly before Vestal had married Virginia there in 1950. It appears that Jerry and Otis had a son F. L. Pate, probably in New Mexico in 1949-1951. I have not found birth records for him, but he is mentioned in an obituary. I do not have any details about Otis other than the fact that he was born in Texas in 1923 and when he and Jerry applied for their marriage license in 1948, they both lived in Bovina, TX which is another small town southwest of Amarillo. I don't know what happened to Otis, but Jerrie was available to jump in and marry Vestal when he needed a hand with all of his children. I looked at her death records and it suggests that I may have some mistakes in my research. It shows the following:

Mar 1946: Name listed as JERRIE LOU POUNDS;
 Feb 1960: Name listed as JERRIE LOU SOUTHARD;
 Aug 1963: Name listed as JERRIE LOU MONTGOMERY;
 Sep 1967: Name listed as JERRIE LOU PATE;
 Dec 1970: Name listed as JERRIE LOU BENNETT;
 02 Nov 2002: Name listed as JERRIE L BENNETT

I cannot reconcile these dates with obituaries and the 1950 Census.

Vestal died in 1992 and I do not find an obituary, only his Findagrave site. Virginia's Findagrave site also is devoid of any biography. Jerrie's obituary however appears in 2002 and it reads:

CLARENDON - Jerrie Lou Bennett, 72, died Saturday, Sept. 28, 2002.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday in Clarendon Church of Christ with Billy Jones, of Jericho, and Eddie Stegall, minister, officiating. Burial will be in Claude Cemetery by Robertson Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Bennett was born Jan. 25, 1930, in Hereford and was a resident of Washburn before moving to Clarendon 15 years ago. She had worked as a home health nurse for 20 years before her retirement. She married Ova Vestal Bennett on Oct. 13, 1970, in Amarillo, Potter County. She was a member of the Clarendon Church of Christ.

Casket bearers include Craig Cobb, Greg Bennett, Chris Cox, Brayden Bennett, Teal Bennett and Tate Bennett. She was preceded in death by her husband on Feb. 13, 1997; a brother; and a granddaughter.

Survivors include four sons, F.L. Pate of Houston, Danny Bennett, Dickie Bennett and Larry Bennett, all of Clarendon; four daughters, Deborah Cox and Tonja Ruthardt, both of Clarendon, Janice Perales of Houston and Donna Bennett of Amarillo; two brothers, Danny Pounds of Capitan, N.M., and Sammy Pounds of White Water, Mo.; three sisters, Martha Wilson and Dee Jameson, both of Fort Stockton, and Betty Pounds of Bernalillo, N.M.; 14 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

The family suggests, in lieu of flowers, memorials be to Baptist-St. Anthony's Hospice of Amarillo. (Published in Amarillo Globe-News, Sept. 30, 2002)

This obituary gives a few more clues about Jerrie. In addition to her son, F. L. Pate, she may have had a daughter Janice Perales. It seems unlikely that Vestal and Jerrie would have had a daughter together since she was 40 when they married, but I have so far run into a dreaded brick wall. I have found birth records for the other 6 children mentioned. (See updates below where I have unraveled the children)

Children of Vestal and Virginia Parsons Smith

327	Janice Bennett	1951	Ova and Virginia Child#1
328	Danny Bennett	1953	Ova and Virginia Child#2
329	Dickey Don Bennett	1956	Ova and Virginia Child#3
330	Larry Don Bennett	1960	Ova and Virginia Child#4
331	Laura Donna Bennett	1960	Ova and Virginia Child#5
332	Tonja Bennett	1963	Ova and Virginia Child#6

327. Janice Bennett 1 JUN 1951 • Wheeler, TX - Living

#1 James Douglas Beavers 25 MAY 1951 • Yankton, S.D. - 9 DEC 2007 • Amarillo, TX

Marriage: 10 Dec 1969 • Donley, TX – Divorce: 28 Oct 1996 • Galveston, TX

#2 Carlos A Perales Sr APR 1957 - Living

Marriage: 8 Oct 1999 • Galveston, TX



Janice was the first of 6 children born to Vestal and Virginia. She arrived on the 1st of June 1951 in Wheeler, TX. The photo is from her 5th grade year in Claude, TX in 1962 which would suggest that she would have graduated about 1968 at which time she married James Beavers who was from South Dakota. They stayed married until 1996 during which time they seem to have had a daughter, Kimberley Janelle Beavers on 6 Aug 1970 in Amarillo. While James was from South Dakota, he may have been orphaned as he had ended up at Carl Farly's Boys Ranch near Amarillo in 1966 when he was 15 and stayed there until 1969. He later returned as a staff member from 1973 to 1974 so Janice and Kimberly must have spent their early years of the marriage there.

Three years after her divorce, she married Carlos Perales in 1999. I have not found much about him but saw some indication that he had married and divorced and had 3 children, and since his name was Carlos Sr. I suspect that he had a son, Carlos Jr. They may still be living in Galveston.

Child of Janice Bennett and James Beaver

770	Kimberley Janelle Beavers	1970	Janice and James Beaver's child
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328. Danny Ray Bennett 12 AUG 1953 • Potter, TX - Living

Kristi Lee Waters NOV 1958 • Texas - Living

Marriage: 21 Dec 1977 • Swisher, TX – Divorce: 21 May 1987 • Randall, TX – 2 children



Danny was the 2nd child born to Ova and Virginia arriving in Amarillo the summer of 1953. I have found him in this yearbook photo from Claude High School in 1962 when he was in the 2nd grade and the 2nd is his sophomore photo in 1971. In 1977 he married Kristi Waters who was in Vega HS in 1974 and 5 years younger than Danny. She was the daughter of Jerry and Bonnie Leavitt Fowler and had 2 younger sisters and a younger brother. They had Teal Ray Bennett on 12 Jan 1982 and Tate Lee Bennett on 26 Sep 1983.

I have not found a later marriage for Danny, but Kristi married John Morgan in 1987 and divorced in 1989 and at her father's death in 2023 her name was Kristi Schott, but I have not found out who that is.

Children of Danny and Kristi Waters Bennett

771	Teal Ray Bennett	1982	Danny and Kristi's child#1
772	Tate Lee Bennett	1983	Danny and Kristi's child#2

328. Dickey Don Bennett 1 MAR 1956 • Potter, TX - Living

Betty A Joslin 21 APR 1956 • Hale, TX – Living

Marriage: 27 Jun 1975 • Hale, TX – Divorce: 5 Sep 1980 • Armstrong, TX - 1 child



Dickey was the 3rd child born to Ova and Virginia and arrived on the 1st of Mar 1956 in Hale. I found him as a Junior at Claude HS in 1974, but he was not there as a Senior. If he graduated, it was probably in 1975 and right after that, he married Betty Joslin who was from Hale, TX and seems to have graduated from Plainview HS in 1974. Her credits show:

BETTY JOSLIN

Band; Bandettes; French CI; VOE Lab;
VOE Co-op; VOE CI 1973.

She was the daughter of James and Sally North Joslin and had 4 sisters who I have not researched. On 8 Nov 1977, they had son, Gregory Don Bennet in Amarillo before divorcing in 1980. Betty later married Ronnie Dean Williams and they had two sons Clayton 1984 and Cody 1987. While I have not found that Dickey married a 2nd time, I suspect that he probably did as he was only 24 when he divorced.

I did find that son Gregory graduated from Plainview HS in 1996 and married Jeton Aven in 1997. In her father's obituary from 2011 she is Jeton Powe so that must not have worked out.

Child of Dickey and Betty Joslin Bennett

771	Gregory Don Bennet	1977	Dickey and Betty Bennett's child
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329. Larry Don Bennett – Twin 18 JUL 1960 • Potter, TX – Living

Cheryl Ann Burch 21 OCT 1962 • Potter, TX - Living

Marriage: 14 Jul 1984 • Potter, TX - Divorce 12 Apr 1993 • Potter, TX – 2 children



The 4th and 5th children born to Ova and Virginia were Larry and Laura who arrived in Amarillo on 18 July 1960 only 8 days before my youngest sister. I found a photo of them together in the 7th grade, but in the 1974 Claude Yearbook, but I could not find them together later in high school. I found this shot of Larry in 1976 at Plainview HS as a freshman, but I'm not certain that these are the same people. Meanwhile, look at Laura's photos below. Her 2nd one is from 1977 at Amarillo Caprock HS as a sophomore. They look very similar. I did not see anything in Ova's biography that would explain the kids living in separate places except for the fact that Virginia died in 1970 and married Jerrie Pounds that same year so who knows what happened with all of the kids during these tumultuous years.

In 1984, Larry married Cheryl Burch in Amarillo and they had Brittney Senae Bennett in 1986 and Bradley Bennett in 1989. They divorced in 1993 and she later married Neal Patrick Koetting. I have not found another marriage for Larry.

Children of Larry and Cheryl Burch Bennett

774	Brittney Senae Bennett	1986	Larry and Cheryl Bennett's child#1
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775	Bradley Bennett	1989	Larry and Cheryl Bennett's child#2
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330. Laura Donna Bennett Twin 18 JUL 1960 • Potter, TX - Death Living

Kevin L Lea Birth 1958 • Hereford, TX – Living

Marriage: 27 Apr 1985 - Herford



The other half of the Bennett twins was Laura Aonna who arrived along with brother Larry on 18 July 1960 bring the baby count up to 5 for Virginia.

Records show that Laura had a child, Tiffiney Nell Bennett in 1983 who only lived a few days. No father was noted. Two years later, she married Kevin Lea from Hereford. I have not found divorce records, but he seems to

have married Cindy McElroy in Lubbock in 1992 but there are a lot of loose ends here. In Jerrie's 2002 Obituary, Laura is referred to as Donna Bennett living in Amarillo. That's all I have for her.

Child of Laura Bennett and unknown father

776 Tiffney Nell Bennett 1983 Laura Bennett and unknown father

331. Tonja Lynn Bennett 3 DEC 1963 • Potter, TX - Living

#1 Jeffrey Stuart Pronger 22 JAN 1958 • Moore, TX - 1 APR 2023 • Stratford, TX

Marriage: 20 Nov 1987 • Potter, TX – Divorce: 19 Mar 1991 • Sherman, TX - No Children

#2 Travis Louis Ruthardt 20 OCT 1964 • Carson, TX - 26 SEP 2023 • Amarillo, TX

Marriage: 11 Jun 1994 • Gray, TX



Ova and Virginia's final child arrived only 7 years before her death in 1970 and joined her 2 older sisters and 3 older brothers. She was a freshman at Claude HS in 1980 so my presumption is that she graduated about 1983. With her first marriage coming in 1987, perhaps she had gone off to college, but I have not been able to confirm that. She married Jeff Pronger in 1987

and they were married for 4 years before divorcing in 1991 without having had any children.

In 1994, she married a 2nd time to Travis Ruthardt from Carson, TX and They had a son Travis Seth on 16 Oct 1995. Travis died in 2023. His obituary reads:

Travis Louis Ruthardt, 58, of Childress, TX went to be with his Lord, on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 in Amarillo.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, September 29, 2023 at 10 AM at First Methodist Church in Groom with Tyler Leavitt officiating. Burial will follow in Groom Cemetery. Arrangements are by Robertson Funeral Directors of Clarendon.

Travis was born October 20, 1964 to Louis and Judy Brown Ruthardt. His profession was a cowboy, a life he truly loved. He was a joker and loved playing pranks on his loved ones. He definitely kept us on our toes. Travis loved working with cattle, being in the outdoors, and being with family.

He is survived by wife, Helen Ruthardt of Childress; his son, Seth Ruthardt wife Sierra of Amarillo; daughters, Haley Bennett of Amarillo, and Rachel Wade and husband Roger of Clarendon; the mother of his children, Tonja Ruthardt of Hedley; his brothers, Ken Ruthardt and wife Missy of Edmond, Oklahoma and Brice Ruthardt and wife Jeanie of Amarillo; his sister, Judith Ingle and husband Jerome of Groom; his mother, Judy Ruthardt of Groom; numerous nieces and nephews; step son, Colton Fowler and wife Dyan of Childress; step daughter, Jacklyn Sims and husband Dallas of Wellington; and 16 grandchildren. The family suggest memorials be made to Groom Methodist Church, Groom Fire Department, or St. Jude's in Travis' name.

From this obituary we learn that Travis and Tonja did not stay married. He mentions that Travis Seth is married to Sierra and that he and Tonja may have had two more children, Haley (married to a Bennett) and Rachel married to Roger Wade. His new wife Helen had been married to someone named Fowler and she had A son Colton (married to Dyan) and Jacklyn (married to Dallas Sims). All of these children have 16 kids between them.

I have been unable to sort out these people. I found Colton Fowler's mother was Kimberly Wilkins who was married to Christopher Curtis Fowler and had 4 children - Colton Howard Fowler 1988, Shandi Dawn Fowler 1989, Christian Hope Fowler 1990, and Stephen Curtis Fowler 1991. Tis a puzzlement.

Child of Travis and Tonja Bennett Ruthardt

777 Travis Seth Ruthardt 1995 Travis and Tonja Bennett's Child

Maybe Haley Ruthardt and Rachel Ruthardt – have not been able to confirm.

One final story about Ova's 2nd wife, Jerrie Pounds and her children. I was able trace that she married Odis (or Otis) Pate in Las Cruces, NM in 1948 while both were living in Bovina, TX. They had two children,

Deborah Pate 1951 and Faris Lyn Pate 1953, but in 1953 she filed for divorce and petitioned for custody of the children which she brought to the marriage with Ova in 1970. I do not know what she did between 1953 and 1970. In 1921, her grandfather, Zachariah Benjamin Pounds (Z B Pounds) was accused of trying to kill his wife and was convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison. He claimed that a cow kicked her. He ended up in Huntsville and appealed his conviction, but the courts denied his appeal. Then in 1936, a curious thing happened in Texas. The Governor, "Pa" Ferguson had his wife "Ma" Ferguson run to succeed him after he was impeached and she won. They began selling pardons and Z B was the fortunate recipient of one of the pardons! Unfortunately, he died a year later just about the time that Jerrie's father got married.

This completes the story of William Lawson Smith and Emily Guthrie's children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grand children. By my count, there are 10 children, 42 grandchildren (plus 14 step), 50 great great grandchildren (plus 3 step), and 78 great great great grandchildren (plus at least 5 step) descended from William Lawson and Emily Guthrie Smith. Completed 25 Sep 2025. See Bills17-Bills26 for each line.