

6. The Descendants of Samuel Oscar Smith (1856-1920) and Mary Elizabeth Virginia Renfro (1869-1934) of Texas, Arizona. and California

34. Samuel Oscar Smith Jr 25 JAN 1903 • Sterling, TX - 16 OCT 1977 • San Diego, CA

Golda Marie Hull BIRTH 1908 • Kansas - DEATH Unknown

Married: about 1928, California – based on birthdate of first child

Doris E Slater Matta about 1904 DEATH Unknown

Marriage: 17 Sep 1955 • San Diego, CA

Sam Oscar is one of those frustrating relatives that has stymied my searches. I will share what information that I have been able to gather, but there remain a lot of questions.

He first appears in the 1910 Census in Sterling, TX before the move back to New Mexico and was identified as Eso. I think that the census taker must have misunderstood the respondent's answer that his name was S. O. for Samuel Oscar, Jr. He then shows up as the 2nd oldest son aged 17 in Douglas AZ in the 1920 Census.

While records have not been found about his marriage, he appears next in the 1930 Census married to Goldie N. They lived at 904 North Marengo, Pasadena, CA and he was a fireman for the railroad. They rented their house for \$38/month. He was 27 and she was 20 and they had been married two years. They had a newly born daughter, Carolyn M. Birth records indicate that Carolyn was born to a mother whose maiden name was Hull and she was born in Bakersfield on 16 July 1929, so we can assume that Sam had just recently moved to Pasadena at the time of the 1930 Census. Goldie seems to have been the youngest child of George Willard and Caroline Hull from Jackson County, Kansas. In the 1910 Census, her mother had given birth to 11 children, but only 7 had survived. I have been unable to determine how Goldie at age 20 had made her way to California to marry Sam. Since I cannot find marriage record my suspicion is that as a railroad man, Sam may have met and married her in Kansas and brought her to California. The Census shows that Sam was not a veteran of WW1.

Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head or Rented	Home Owned Home Value	Radio Set	Lives on Farm	Gender	Race	Age	Year	Marital Status	Age at First Marriage	Attended School	Able to Read and Write	Birthplace	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Occupation
1930 Census	904 North Marengo Avenue.	Pasadena, Los Angeles, California		38 No	No	Male	White	27	1903	Married	25	No	Yes	Texas	Texas	Texas	Fireman
Smith	Samuel O	Head	Rented			Female	White	22	1908	Married	20	No	Yes	Kansas	Indiana	Kansas	
Smith	Goldie N	Wife				Female	White	0	1930	Single		No		California	Texas	Kansas	
Smith	Carolyn M	Daughter															

Sam and Goldie's Children

137 Carolyn M Smith 1929 2011 Sam and Goldie Child#1

138 Gloria Jean Smith 1942 2000 Sam and Goldie Child#2

137. Carolyn M Smith 16 JULY 1929 • Bakersfield, Kern, CA - 10 FEB 2011 • Captain Cook, HI

#1 – Gerald (or Jerald) D Miller 29 JUN 1928 • Holliday, TX - Unknown

Marriage: 29 Sep 1946 • Clark, Nevada – Divorce: 6 Sep 1983 - Hawaii

#2 - Alexander Peter Guthrie Jr 22 MAY 1941 • Placerville, CA - 9 FEB 2007 • Captain Cook, Hawaii

Married: Unknown

This is going to be one of those biographies with a lot of holes in it, but I will do my best to fill in as many as possible. As you may recall from her father's biograph, Carolyn was born in Bakersfield to Sam Jr and Goldie in 1929 and appeared with them in the 1930 and 1940 Censuses at ages 1 and 11. We know that her parents divorced in 1942 shortly after the birth of her much younger sister, Gloria Jean. Her mother remarried Frank Dennis before 1950 and he was in the Air Force stationed in Nevada so I surmise that Carolyn went with her mother to Nevada where she met and married Jerald (or Gerald) Miller in 1946. The marriage certificate does not have a lot of information, but it shows that Jerald Don Miller and Carolyn Marie Smith were married by JP Charles J. Dohrenwend and witnessed by Ann H. Dohrenwend (who may

have been the JP's wife) and Trice G. Miller who was Jerald's older brother. They both lived in Henderson, NV which is a suburb of Las Vegas.

In the 1950 Census, Carolyn, Gerald, and their new son, Jerald appear living at 340 Old Oppendyke Ranch, Las Vegas where Gerald was working at a gas station. That address no longer exists.

Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head of House	Race	Gender	Age	Birth Date	Marital Status	Birth Place	Citizenship	Hours Worked	Occupation
		340 Old Oppendyke Ranch	Las Vegas, Clark, Nevada								
Miller	Gerald	Head	White	Male	21	1929	Married	Texas		48	Retail Gas Attenda
Miller	Carolyn	Wife	White	Female	20	1930	Married	California			
Miller	Jerald	Son	White	Male	3	1947	Never Married	(Nevada			

As usual, things go a little dark at this point. I did notice that in 1956, Gerald's older brother who had fought in WW2 and returned to Reno NV and become a barber was killed in a messy car accident. In the report of his death, Gerald (who was called Gerald A) was reportedly a Captain in the Las Vegas Fire Department. Unfortunately, my newspaper subscription does not seem to have a Las Vegas paper. I have been unable to determine when Gerald and Carolyn split up. (Update: I found a divorce notice in 1983 between Jerald and Carolyn Miller) It may have been due to his death. Looking through City Directories, I found Jerald and Carolyn in Las Vegas in 1954 and 1957 living at 1025 Bedford and Jerald was a fireman in 1954 and a Cpt in the LV Fire Dept. That must be a special Nevada cooling system that I am not familiar with. Things get a little confusing after this and I find no more references to Jerald or of the children Jerald Jr, and a later child, Shelley Diane born in Feb 1950 until I started seeing death notices for Carolyn Kadooka that matched our



Carolyn's profile. Those obituary reads:

Feb 10, 2011

Carolyn Marie Kadooka, 81, of Captain Cook, Hawaii, owner of Hale Manu Farms in Captain Cook, died at home. She was born in Bakersfield, Calif. She is survived by daughter Dianna Miller and sister Gloria J. Smith. Private services.

From this we can determine that her daughter is still alive in 2011 and either not married or keeping her maiden name, but we don't know where she is, but I suspect Hawaii. Her younger sister is in the same situation. (I found another more detailed copy of the obituary that said that Dianna was in St. Francisville, Louisiana and that Gloria was in Ely, Nevada. More good clues. No mention of her son Jerald which is not good.) I set about searching for Carolyn Kadooka and came upon this obituary from 2007.

Alexander "Pete" Guthrie Hawaii Tribune-Herald (Hilo, HI) - Thursday, February 15, 2007

Age 65, of Captain Cook died Feb. 9 at Kona Community Hospital. Born in Placerville, Calif., he was the owner of Modesto Builders Supply in Modesto, Calif., a coffee farmer and member of the Harley Owners Group in Kona. Private services. Survived by wife, Carolyn Kadooka of Captain Cook; sons, Bruce Guthrie of Modesto, Calif., Steven (Louisa) Thompson of Santa Cruz, Calif.; daughters, Julie Guthrie of Modesto, Calif., Dianna Miller of Captain Cook; hanai brother, Ozzie (Gayle) Mackey of Kailua-Kona; four grandchildren. Arrangements by Cremation Services of West Hawaii.

What does this tell us? At some point, Carolyn married Pete Guthrie who if you do the math was 65 when he died in 2007 meaning Carolyn would have been 77 at that time, or 12 years older. Pete had a son Bruce, perhaps a stepson, Steven Thompson, a daughter, and Julie, a stepdaughter (Carolyn's daughter) Dianna Miller. I looked up hanai brother, and it is a Hawaiian term meaning an informally adopted family member.

So, I have two or three missions. Try to find out who Kadooka is. We know that Carolyn was married to him before 2007 which is when Pete died. I need to research Pete. I need to see what I can find about son Jerald. I need to see if her daughter and sister can add clues.

There are a lot of Kadookas in Hawaii and I found no mention of Carolyn Kadooka before 2007 so dead end there. Let's try Dianna (whose birth name was Shelley Diane). St Francisville is a wide spot in the road north of Baton Rouge. It has a population of 1575. I cannot imagine what Dianna was doing there and I find no mentions of her in the Baton Rouge newspapers. Let's try Jerald Jr. All I can find on him is a listing from "United States Residential Database" which shows him to have been at the following locations at the indicated dates.

OAKRIDGE, OR Dec 1996

LAS VEGAS, NV Sep 1999

CAPTAIN COOK, HI Jul 1995

ELY, NV Jun 1972

LAS VEGAS, NV Jun 1972

LAS VEGAS, NV Mar 1987

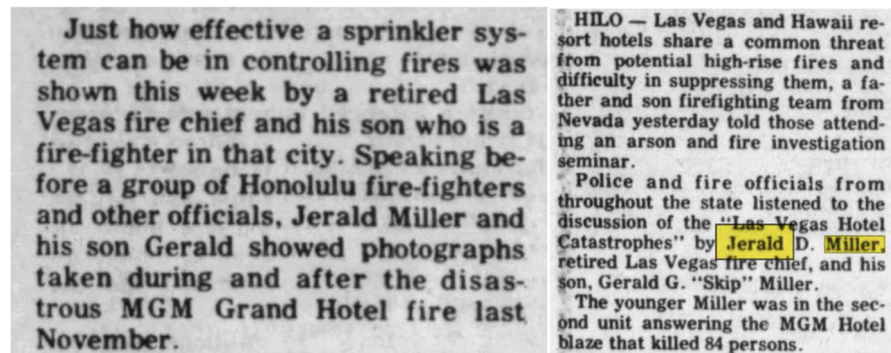
LAS VEGAS, NV Aug 1986

Principle Is Deceased N

Event Date Jun 1972

6409 OUIDA WAY, Las Vegas, Clark, Nevada

While looking for Jerald Jr in Hawaii, it led me to the discovery of a divorce announcement between



Jerald Sr on 6 Sep 1983 in Hilo, Hawaii. Progress!

That then led me to these stories. So, his son and he spelled their names differently and his nickname was Skip. Gerald was the fire chief during the horrible MGM Grand fire, and Gerald retired to Hawaii.

Let's try Pete. He turns out to be an interesting fellow. I will try not to go too far astray, but I like these side stories. He was born in 1941 to Alexander and Jane Solinsky Guthrie. In 1930, his mother's father was the Superintendent of Crater Lake National Park in Medford, Oregon. His father descended from a Scottish gentleman named Alexander Guthrie who has been the founder of Balfour Guthrie and Co. which is described as: *Shipping and Commission Merchants...Importers of: cement, pig iron, fine brick, fire clay, pig tin and chemicals. Exporters of: wheat, flour, lumber and salmon. Selling agents for The American Tinplate Co. In 1869, Balfour, Guthrie & Company was established by three Scotsmen in San Francisco. Initially, it imported British industrial goods and exported wheat from California.*

His own father was in the lumber industry and Peter had one sister. Peter was engaged in 1960, but that marriage did not seem to come to pass. (Update: It seems to have happened, but did not last) In 1965, he did marry Nives Fillippi who parents were from Switzerland and she was born there before they immigrated to the US in 1949. Peter and Nives had two children, Bruce and Julie. He spent some time in the Air Force before settling down in Modesto California where he initially opened a fitness gym before becoming a partner, then owner of Modesto Lumber Supply. At some point, he ended up in Hawaii and I presume that he and Nives divorced. (Update: I followed Nives in the newspaper and she was still living in California and had not remarried as of 2024) I base this on his mention of a son Stephen Thompson in his obituary which suggests that he must have married again to someone who had a son. Sometime between 1983 and 2007, he married Carolyn. I know from his mother's obituary that they were married in 2001. I

believe that I have run out of clues to follow. It's interesting to me that her mother, Golda married a young man who was 17 years younger than her just as Carolyn was 12 years older than Pete.

Children of Carolyn and Jerald Miller

372	Jerald "Skip" Miller	1947	Carolyn and Gerald's Child#1
373	Shelley Dianna Miller	1951	Carolyn and Gerald's Child#2
373.2	Bruce Guthrie	1966	Alexander and Nives Guthrie Child#1
373.3	Julie Guthrie	1970	Alexander and Nives Guthrie Child#2
373.4	Steven Thompson	1962	Carolyn and unknown Thompson???

As I start this section, I will add a caveat that it takes a lot of twists and turns. I will go back to Carolyn for a minute. I've documented her marriage to Jerald Miller in 1946, and yes, his name was Jerald and his son's name was Gerald. I had then been using her daughter's name as Deanna Miller while it turned out it was actually Dianna Miller and using the correct name opened some doors. Also, mentioned in several obituaries is a son Steven Thompson. I have not been able to figure out who he is and who his parents are. Carolyn and Jerald did not divorce until 1983 at which time she was 54, so Steven is not likely to be her son except I found a Steven Thompson born to a mother with the surname Smith in 1962. I thought that maybe Carolyn and Jerald split up for a while, but then Steven is mentioned as the son of Peter Guthrie in his obituary, and is not mentioned in Carolyn's obituary so I don't know. Let's go through what I have found.

372 Jerald G "Skip" Miller Birth 30 APR 1947 • Nevada - Living

#1 Carol Miller Birth about 1950 • Nevada – Living

Marriage: about 1964

#2 Shirley Darleene Brunson AUG 1947 • Nevada – Living

Marriage: 7 Aug 1976 • Clark, Nevada Divorce: 28 Jun 1985



Jerald arrived shortly before the 1950 Census and he appears in that census with his parents in Nevada where his Texas born father was working at a gas station.

Records indicate that he graduated from Western HS in Las Vegas in 1965. In 1964 he was Skip and in 1965, he was Jerald. Who knows what his name was! I have not found marriage records, but in Feb 1965, when he was still in high school, a Scott Robert Miller was born to Gerald and Carol Miller on 4 Feb 1965 and then died on 22 Feb 1965 in Verdi which is right by Reno. I have not been able to locate a Western HS near Verdi, so this may or may not be our Jerald. Probably not.

Records then show that in 1976, he married Shirley Brunson. Shirley was born in 1947 also in St. George, UT to Harry (1922–2003) and Schearril Judd Brunson (1922–1999). In 1964, she married Paul Hernandez from New Mexico and they had a son, John Anthony Hernandez in 1965 in Texas. From Paul's 2009 biography, it looks like Vietnam may have messed up their marriage.

A two-column-wide photo in a newspaper clipping yellowed since its 1967 publication shows Army Sgt. Paul Hernandez holding a row of medals he earned: a Vietnam Campaign Medal, a Purple Heart, two Bronze Stars, another Purple Heart and an Army Commendation Medal.

"I knew he got the Purple Heart because he had that on his license plate," said Isidro Hernandez, Paul Hernandez's son. "But other than that, my dad was like, 'I really don't want to talk about that.'"

"That" was his father's service during the Vietnam War." I just think it needs to be known what he did because, for one, I'm proud of him," the son said.

Paul H. "Shorty" Hernandez, a resident of the McIntosh area, died June 3. He was 64. It was only in recent days that the Hernandez family came across some of the old news stories about Paul Hernandez. "We were just walking guys laughing and joking then all of a sudden my buddies started dying all around me," starts a Dec. 27, 1967, profile that appeared in The Albuquerque Tribune. The story told about the 70 or so times he had come under fire.

"When they opened up, it was like a lawn mower was leveling the elephant grass," the story reads. "We'd run smack into a large force of North Vietnamese regulars and they were tearing us up with Russian-made automatic weapons and stolen M-1 grenade launchers."

Hernandez, who served in the Army from about 1966 to 1969, was eventually rotated back to the mainland U.S. and at Fort Lewis, Wash., trained troops who were headed into combat. Other medals he received for his war-time service included the National Defense Service Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal.

Sometime between Paul and Jerald, she married Gregory R. Knight. I haven't found where they were married or any evidence of children, but they divorced in Nevada on 16 June 1976. Two months later, she married Jerald in Las Vegas. They stayed married until June 1985. I know that in 1981 Jerald was still a fireman in Las Vegas based upon this 1981 interview about the MGM fire. *Just how effective a sprinkler system can be in controlling fires was shown this week by a retired Las Vegas fire chief and his son who is a fire-fighter in that city. Speaking before a group of Honolulu fire-fighters and other officials, Jerald Miller and his son Gerald showed photographs taken during and after the disastrous MGM Grand Hotel fire last November.*

Since Jerald is not mentioned in either his mother or his step father's obituary, I am of the opinion that he must be deceased. Residence records indicate that he spent some time in 1996 in Oregon. There was a Skip Miller who was a police officer in Salem Oregon, but I cannot find evidence that this is our Skip.

373. Dianna Miller Birth 1951 • Nevada - Death Living

Information about Dianna has been hard to come by. The yearbooks for the high school where I found her brother Jerald do not include her in any of the years that are available online. News articles are inconclusive, but there is one about a Dianna Miller working with mentally challenged children, that may be her. The only other mentions are in 2007 when her stepfather Pete died and she was in Hawaii and in 2001 when her mother died and she was in St Francisville, LA which is a little town north of Baton Rouge. I did locate a Diannah Miller in that town on Facebook which may be her, but I'm not certain because one of her friends is identified as a sister and her parents never mention a sister.

I'm going to add a side story here that is unrelated, but interesting. While searching for her, I came across a Shelly Diane Miller who was born in 1950 to a mother named Smith in California and thought for sure that this must be our Dianna. The young lady got married in 1970 to a young man named James A. Mitchell who was born in 1947, joined the Navy in 1966 after graduating from high school and had the misfortune to be assigned to the USS Pueblo which was captured by the North Koreans in 1967 so he got to spend 11 months as a guest of them in harsh conditions. He was finally freed in 1968 and when to work for PG&E. In researching him I came across the fact that the USS Pueblo is still on the roles as a US Navy ship and is the 2nd longest registered naval vessel after the USS Constitution which has been around a few years longer!

I found it somewhat ironic that there was a girl named Miller born to a mother named Smith with a similar name at a similar time. I did not find a connection of her mother, Virginia Smith, to our Smith line.

138. Gloria Jean Smith 15 JUN 1941 • San Bernardino, CA – Living?



My information about Gloria is minimal. I know that she was with her mother and stepfather in 1950. She graduated from Las Vegas HS in 1959 and this is her senior picture. I confirmed that it was her by noting that the Senior Parents included Mr. and Mrs. Frank St. Dennis. After that, the only mention is when her sister died in 2011 and she was living in Ely, Nevada.

This ends the study of Sam Oscar Smith Jr and his wife Golda Hull.