

7. The children of Cordelia Josephine Smith (1858-1915) and Phineas W. Hudman (1848-1923)

43. Henry Paul Hudman 13 MAR 1896 • Bronte, TX - 7 JAN 1984 • Abilene, TX

Minnie Lee Odom 15 MAR 1904 • Navarro, TX - 7 OCT 1983 • Abilene, TX

Married: about 1926 – probably Comfort, TX – based on birth records of 1st son

Ora Leo Johnson 7 JAN 1905 • TX - 6 NOV 1994 • Dallas, TX

Married: Unknown



As frequently as his siblings are mentioned in the newspaper, I have had difficulty finding much of a mention of Henry. I don't know if he went by Henry or Paul or HP but I have tried them all. He is mentioned in a couple of his siblings' obituaries as Henry from Texas and Henry from Abilene. Let's explore what I have found. After appearing at home in 1900 and 1910 as the 7th child of Phineas and Cordelia, he next appears in his WW1 Draft Registration where he had moved to Lordsburg, New Mexico and was working as a cowboy for the Highland Cattle Company. He was tall, slender with blue eyes and brown hair. I haven't found any historical records about that company. Numerous records confirm that he was drafted in Arizona to serve in WW1 as a private in the 132nd Field Artillery, 36th Division with Serial Number 1480774. This record from Fold3 pretty well cinched it for me.

Children of Henry and Minnie

170	Joseph Lee Hudman	1926	1942	Henry and Minnie's Child#1
171	Cordie Beatrice Hudman	1927	2010	Henry and Minnie's Child#2
172	William Paul Hudman	1930	1984	Henry and Minnie's Child#3
173	Benjamin Ray Hudman	1932	2001	Henry and Minnie's Child#4

170. Joseph Lee Hudman 11 JUL 1926 • Comfort, TX - 17 DEC 1942 • Bronte, TX



Joseph's High School Photo

J. L. HUDMAN
Born at Bronte, Texas,
July 11, 1926
Died at Abilene, Texas,
December 17, 1942

The first child born to Henry and Minnie arrived a week after the 4th of July 1926. My own father was born 4 months later. He appears in the 1930 Census on the family farm in Bronte, TX with his little sister, Beatrice and he's almost 4. He appears in the 1940 Census still in Bronte as age 14 having completed a year of high school. After his junior year, they moved to Abilene where he started his senior year, worked at the newspaper, and delivered the Abilene Reporter before contracting polio and dying in December. This was before the big polio epidemic of the 1950's.

The Abilene Reporter-News (Abilene, Tex.), Vol. 62, No. 180 Sunday, December 20, 1942

It wouldn't be a real newsletter without the tragic news too. Joseph L. Hudman, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Hudman who moved here from Bronte in May, died Thursday night of infantile paralysis. He was a school senior, paper staff member, and Reporter-News carrier boy.

171. Cordie Beatrice Hudman 4 DEC 1927 • Bronte, TX - 23 OCT 2010 • Colleyville, TX
 Donald Lee Staats 13 APR 1924 • Jennings, OK - 20 JUN 2013 • Duncanville, TX
 Married: 7 Apr 1949, Tom Green, TX



Beatrice from her high school yearbook. Donald from Ancestry.

Henry and Minnie's 2nd child was daughter Corsie Beatrice apparently named after her grandmother, but she appears to have preferred Beatrice. She joined brother Joseph in Bronte before the move to Abilene in 1942. They were still in Bronte for the 1940 Census where she had been joined by two younger brothers William and Benjamin in 1930 and 1932. Her yearbook is a little confusion in that it pictures her as a member of the Abilene Class of 1945, however she is pictured as part of the summer school class and is listed at the Salutatorian. Anyway, she must have been a good student.

The period from 1940-1950 get a little confusing to me. I found marriage records for Donald and Beatrice on 7 Apr 1949 in San Angelo, TX and I begin looking for information about Donald. I find that he

**Miss June Potts,
Donald Staats Are
Married in Borger**

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Potts, of Phillips, announce the marriage of their daughter, June to Donald Lee Staats, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Staats, of Skellytown, on Friday, April 7. The ceremony was read by the Rev. Ray Harris of Borger. They were attended by Mrs. Ray Harris, of Borger and William Louis Rives of Skellytown.

The bride, who was formerly a student in the Phillips High school, wore a navy dress with black accessories.

Mr. Staats is employed by the Northern Natural Gas company at Skellytown, where the young couple will make their home.

BUY BONDS.

was born in 1924 in OK to Charles Clyde (C. C.) and Mary Staats. His dad was from Kansas and his mother from Missouri and he seemed to be the 3rd of 5 children with an older brother and sister and 2 younger brothers. In 1940, he was with his family in Carson County, TX specifically Skellytown which is near Amarillo, TX and his father worked for Shell Oil. I then found a news article from April 19, 1944 where he married a young lady named June Potts and he was working for Northern Natural Gas. Her parents were in nearby Borger, TX in 1940 and also engaged in the oil business. He registered for the WW2 Draft when he turned 18 in 1942 and his card said that he was honorably discharged on 15 June 1943 for being physically unfit. That is the extent of what I could find of his military service.

I don't know what happened to his first marriage, but in 1945 he was the father to LaDonna Staats and the mother was Wanda Sue Brawley. LaDonna was followed by a brother Gary David in May 1947 in Collingsworth County, TX which is still in the Panhandle. Wanda, LaDonna, and Gary appear in the 1950 Census with their divorced mother in Collingsworth County.

Continuing that confusion is the arrival in 20 Feb 1948 of Kayla Diane Staats in Abilene. Her arrival, 8 months after the birth of Wanda's son David in May 1947, may suggest the reason that Wanda and Donald split up. More than a year after Kayla's birth, Donald and Bea get married in Apr 1949 and then have a 2nd child, Edith in Jan 1950. They appear together in the 1950 Census in Marlow, OK which is where Donald's parents had moved by 1950. His father was still in the oil business and his two youngest brothers were still at home. Donald was working for a soft drink bottling company. Marlow is between Wichita Falls and Oklahoma City. Here is Donald at 25, married 3 times, and father of 4.

Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head of House	Race	Gender	Age	Birth Date	Marital Status	Birth Place	Citizenship	Hours Worked	Occupation	Industry
1950 Census	312 W. West Chickasaw		Marlow, Stephens, Oklahoma,									
Staats	Donald L	Head	White	Male	25	1925	Married	Oklahoma		48	Route Foreman	Soft Drink Bottling
Staats	E Beatrice	Wife	White	Female	22	1928	Married	Texas				
Staats	Kayla D	Daughter	White	Female	2	1948	Never Married	(Texas				
Staats	Edith M	Daughter	White	Female	Jan	1950	Never Married	(Oklahoma				

I went back and did a thorough search of Abilene in the 1940-1960 period and it appears that the year Bea graduated (1945), her mother, Minnie filed for divorce against her father, Henry. She filed a restraining order and then in 1947, the divorce suit was dismissed. It does not appear that they reconciled however because Minnie seemed to have ended up with the family house at 2241 Pine which she tried to sell several times over the years beginning in 1947 and 1948. In 1948, Minnie had moved to 1718 Pine and

was renting out the other house which she tried to sell again in 1954. Minnie seems to have also rented out space at her 1718 Pine location and eventually started serving meals and taking in laundry.

In searching newspapers after 1950, I found that the Staats did not stay in Oklahoma long. The only mention I could find of Donald in Texas newspapers in the 1950's was a story from Nov 1950 where he was working in Abilene for a new grocery called M-Systems. M-Systems was a grocery chain based in San Angelo that expanded widely throughout Texas in the 1950's and 1960's. I'm not sure what eventually happened to it, but I suspect that one of the big Texas chains eventually bought them. Interestingly, I read one story that the Furr Family bought 6 of them in 1929 and went on to establish a line of Furr Supermarkets and the famous Furr's Cafeteria chain which those of us from Texas fondly remember. In 1952, they were living in Abilene and visited Donald's sister in Hooker, OK which is in the Oklahoma Panhandle above the Texas Panhandle. In 1955 they were visiting his parents from Dennison, TX. In 1957, they were in Pampa, TX and again visiting parents. In 1958, Kayla visited her grandparents. In 1959, they were in Dallas and now had a son Gary who had arrived in 1956. I suspect that if I do more research on M-Systems, I would find that Donald was probably working with them in the grocery business and moving around to their various stores. I didn't dig into Donald's family extensively, but one of his brothers, Aaron seems to have made a career of the military and is mentioned frequently in the family visits moving up in rank.

Daughter Kayla married John Charles Fry in Dallas in 1972 and they have at least one daughter. Edith married Edwin Watkins who seems to have been in the service, probably Navy, and they had 4 sons. Edith died in Richmond, VA in 2006. She was only 56 and both of her parents were still living. Son Gary married Diane Meroney in 1979 in Houston. He attended Baylor and worked in the admissions office for a while before ending up working for a couple of Senior Living Companies Ameri-Care and The Covenant Group and seems to be retired in Colleyville, TX. He and Diane look like they have 2 sons and 2 daughters.

Bea died in Colleyville, Tx in 2010. I have not found an obituary for her. Donald died in 2013 in Duncanville, TX. With their son Gary being in the Senior Care Business, I would assume that they were well taken care of in their later years.

Update 2025: I found Don's obituary. It reads:

Donald Lee Staats passed away June 20, 2013. He was born in April 13, 1924 in Jennings, Oklahoma to parents Charles and Mary Elizabeth Staats. Donald worked for Yellow Freight Lines for more than 30 years and was a long-time member of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Cedar Hill. He is survived by daughter, Kayla Fry husband John; son, Gary Staats wife Diane; son-in-law, Lynn Watkins; 10 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Beatrice Staats in 2010, his daughter Edith Watkins, and 1 brother. A Graveside Service will be 10:00 am Monday, June 24, at Little Bethel Memorial Park. Visitation will be 4-6 pm Sunday, June 23 at Jaynes Memorial Chapel in Duncanville. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hillcrest Baptist Church, 265 W. Pleasant Run Road in Cedar Hill, TX 75104 - American Cancer Society, 8900 Carpenter Freeway in Dallas, 75247 - the Alzheimer's Association, North Central Chapter, 2630 West Freeway, Suite 100, Ft. Worth, Texas, 76102, or any charity of your choice in Donald's name.

This indicates that he had 10 grandchildren in 2013.

Children of Donald and Bea Hudman Staats

430	Kayla Diane Staats	1948		Cordie and Donald Child#1
431	Edith Maurine Staats	1950	2006	Cordie and Donald Child#2
432	Gary Staats	1956		Cordie and Donald Child#3

430 Kayla Diane Staats 20 FEB 1948 • Abilene, TX - Living
John Charles Fry 24 OCT 1948 • Clay County, TX – Living
Marriage: 6 Jan 1972 • Dallas County, TX



Donald and Bea's first child was daughter Kayla who arrived in Abilene right after Valentine's Day 1948. She appears as a sophomore at Sunset HS in Dallas in 1964, but is not there for graduation in 1966 so perhaps her parents moved. She next appears in 1972, when she and John Fry are getting married. Here is that notice:

John Fry, Miss Staats Are Married

Miss Kayla Diane Staats and John Charles Fry are on a wedding trip to Louisiana following their marriage. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Donald Lee Staats, Dallas. Fry is the son of Mrs. J. A. Fry. Henrietta, and the late Mr. Fry. The Rev. Billy Lucas performed the ceremony in Slaughter chapel, First Baptist Church.

Miss Edith Staats, the bride's sister, was maid of honor and Jerry Shehane was best man. The new Mrs. Fry was graduated from Baylor University School of Nursing. Her sorority is Sigma Tau Lambda. Fry was graduated from Dallas Baptist College and is a senior at Southwestern Medical School of Physical Therapy. His fraternity is Alpha Phi Omega. The couple will live in Dallas.

We learn from this about her husband and her education. We also see mention of her sister Edith. Moving forward, we learn that John and Kayla were blessed with children, Todd Charles Fry in 1974, and Rachael Diane Fry in 1978. They were both born in Dallas. Jack's parents were John Allen and Jessie Simmons Fry. His father was a farmer and rancher and died in 1960 when Jack was 12. He had a slightly older sister, Katie. His mother never remarried and died in 1993 working variously for the Antelope School District and the Wichita Falls Hospital. There does not seem to be a good online newspaper serving the Dallas area so I will report what I find as best I can.

John and Kayla's son Todd married Hannah Ruth Strohschein in Dallas in 1994 and they divorced in 2003 with two children reported, but I have only found Rebekah Louise Fry who was born in 1997. In 2006, he married Jere Lynn Hill who was coming off of a divorce from Greogory Reeder and had a daughter, Jerrica Lynne Owens Reeder born in 1992.

I have not found any records about their daughter Rachael apart from her birth.

Children of Kayla Staats and John Fry

921	Todd Charles Fry	1974	Kayla Staats and John Fry's child#1
922	Rachael Diane Fry	1978	Kayla Staats and John Fry's child#2

431 Edith Maurine Staats 9 JAN 1950 • Marlow, OK - 20 JULY 2006 • Henrico, VA
 Edward Lynn Watkins 30 NOV 1949 • Dallas, TX - Living
 Marriage: about 1976 – Dallas, TX



Edith was the 2nd child born to Don and Bea. Remembering that Don was originally from Oklahoma, Edith was born there just in time to make the 1950 Census. Like her sister, I found her at Sunset HS as an undergrad and a brief newspaper clipping from 1971 indicating that she received a financial grant to follow her sister to Baylor College's Nursing school.

I have not found marriage records, but in 1976 she married Edward Watkins and they started having children, Edward Timothy Watkins in 1977, Dennis Ryan Watkins 1978, David Christopher Watkins 1981, and Nathan Watkins 1988. The first three were born in Dallas but I'm uncertain of the place and date of Nathan's birth. I get the impression, that Edward may have ended up in the Navy at some point as the family ended up in Richmond, VA. Edith died in 2006. Let's see what her obituary reveals:

Edie Watkins

Edie Watkins, former resident of Southlake and member of Highland Meadows Christian Church, passed away July 20th, 2006 following a short illness. She worked as a registered nurse at Baylor Grapevine from 1984-1999. Mrs. Watkins served on the Carroll ISD Board of Trustees from 1987-1994

and as president for much of her tenure. She is survived by her husband, Lynn Watkins, of Richmond, VA and four sons: Lt. Timothy Watkins, USN and his wife, Monica, and daughter, Reagan, of Anacortes, WA; Dennis Watkins of Chicago: Lt. JG David Watkins; USN and his wife, Michelle, of Mukilteo, WA; and Nathan, a high school senior in Richmond. Other family members include: parents, Mr. & Mrs. Don Staats of Cedar Hill, sister, Kayla Fry of Duncanville and brother, Gary Staats, of Colleyville. Services and burial were in Richmond, VA on July 25th. Memorials may be made to AFS Intercultural Programs, 198 Madison Avenue, 8th Floor, NY, NY 10016.

I then found a similar obituary in Richmond which has a different opening. *Edith Staats Watkins, 56, of Richmond, died July 20, 2006, following a short illness. Mrs. Watkins was a registered nurse, employed by Henrico Doctors' Hospital Parham Campus.*

This is revealing. The first obituary from Texas gave me the impression that she and Edward must have divorced as he was in Virginia, but she was still in the Dallas area where she had worked as a nurse and was active in education, but it appears that they must have moved to Richmond after 1994. We learn that 2 of her sons are married, while one lives in Chicago and that her youngest was in Richmond, and as a senior in 2006, must have been born about 1988 and probably in Dallas. Tim is married and has a daughter. David is married, but no children as of 2006. Her participation in the student exchange program is interesting. Two of the sons appear to be Naval officers. She died 4 years before her mother and 7 years before her father.

Children of Edith and Lynn Watkins

923	Edward Timothy Watkins	1977	Edith Staats and Lynn Watkin's child#1
924	Dennis Ryan Watkins	1978	Edith Staats and Lynn Watkin's child#2
925	David Christopher Watkins	1981	Edith Staats and Lynn Watkin's child#3
926	Nathan Watkins	1988	Edith Staats and Lynn Watkin's child#4

432 Gary Donald Staats - 30 AUG 1956 • Grayson, TX - Living

Diane Clare Meroney 3 MAY 1956 • Houston, TX - Living

Marriage: 14 Apr 1979 • Houston, TX



Gary was the youngest son born to Don and Bea arriving in Grayson, TX in Aug 1956. He graduated from David W. Carter HS in Dallas in 1974 and I suspect that he headed off to college. In 1979, he married Diane Meroney from Houston who was the oldest child of Elmo Meroney (1931-?) and Katherine Nelson (1933-2012). I have not found a photo of Diane, but her mother was a real beauty. She divorced Elmo in 2003 and married G. Rowland Carey in 2004 when she was 70. Her obituary reads:

With her husband by her side, Katherine "Joanie" Carey, on February 8, 2012 moved from an earthly night to a heavenly day. She was born in Houston on October 28, 1933 to Theodore and Katherine Nelson. She graduated from Lamar High School in 1951 and attended Baylor University from 1951-1952. She gave her life to Jesus Christ in 1965 and shared Him with others until her death. She was a devoted mother, grandmother, and an incredible homemaker. She was a purposeful advocate for handicapped children. Joanie never met a stranger, and her joyful and giving spirit were evident to all. Her gifts and talents had few boundaries. Galveston beach, singing, cake baking and playing tennis were her joys. Teaching Sunday school for 31 years and mentoring girls on a relationship with Christ was a focus she so enjoyed. Entertaining others was a mission that brought her much happiness. As part of a trio, Joanie blessed MD Anderson patients for years. She was a talented beauty who won the title Ms. Senior Texas USA 2005. She is survived by her husband G. Rowland Carey; daughter Diane Meroney Staats and son-in-law Gary; son, James Edwin Meroney and daughter-in-law Morag; daughter Kathy Lynn Meroney; grandchildren, Nelson Staats and wife Lauren, Mallory, Austin and Sarah Staats; Hunter, Conner and Brooke Meroney; great-grandson Noah Staats.



From this we learn that Gary and Diane had Nelson, Mallory, Austin, and Sarah and that Diane had a brother and sister. From my earlier research, Son Gary married Diane Meroney in 1979 in Houston. He attended Baylor and worked in the admissions office for a while before ending up working for a couple of Senior Living Companies Ameri-Care and The Covenant Group and seems to be retired in Colleyville, TX. He and Diane look like they have 2 sons and 2 daughters.

Looking at Texas birth records, I found the following children - Nelson Blair Staats 1983, Mallory Bea Staats 1986, Austin Lee Staats 1989, and Sarah Katherine Staats 1990 which matches the obituary above. In 2012, Nelson was married to Lauren and had a son Noah. I suspect that the other kids have married since 2012.

Children of Gary and Diane Meroney Staats

927	Nelson Blair Staats	1983	Gary and Diane Meroney Staats's child#1
928	Mallory Bea Staats	1986	Gary and Diane Meroney Staats's child#2
929	Austin Lee Staats	1989	Gary and Diane Meroney Staats's child#3
930	Sarah Katherine Staats	1990	Gary and Diane Meroney Staats's child#4

I believe that with these 4, I have accounted for the 10 grandchildren that Don referenced in his obituary. And with that, this completes the study of Don and Bea Hudman Staats. It was completed on 22 Apr 2025.

172. William Paul Hudman 21 APR 1930 • Bronte, TX - 6 JUN 1984 • Ballinger, TX

#1 Opal Parsley 8 AUG 1932 • Leon, TX - 6 NOV 2014 • Mineral Wells, TX

Marriage: 9 Aug 1952 • Abilene, TX

#2 Virginia Francis Kidd 6 FEB 1929 • San Angelo, TX - 24 SEP 1996 • Abilene, TX

Marriage: 18 Jun 1954 • Abilene, TX



Paul's yearbook photo from Abilene High School

William Paul who generally went by Paul arrived 2 weeks after the 1930 Census so he missed that one. He joined Joseph and Bea in Bronte and spent his first 12 years there before moving to Abilene where he lost his big brother shortly after arriving. He appears with all of his family on the family farm in Bronte in 1940, and then in 1950, he was working as a ranch hand on the Pitchfork Ranch in Dickens County. This is quite a famous ranch that started back in the 1880's and is still operating today.

<https://www.thepitchforkranch.com/the-ranch>

He returned to the Abilene area to a little town west of Abilene called Merkel, and spent most of the rest of his life here. I had not realized it earlier until I started newspaper searches, and found that in Aug 1952, he married Opal Parsley. This was a year after he had enlisted in the Army on 21 Feb 1951 and in their wedding announcement it mentions that he was heading overseas. His obituary mentions that he spent time in Germany. I don't know if Opal went with him, but on 17 Aug 1953, Opal sued for divorce and had her maiden name reinstated. This was shortly after his discharge from the army on 11 Apr 1953. It also mentions that there was one minor child. Opal's obituary mentions a daughter Debbie Ann Herrington who was born in Aug 1950. Opal married George Herrington in 1954 after her divorce from Paul, but she and Paul did not marry until 1952, so Debbie's parents are a little confusing. She may be a child born to Paul and Opal before they married and the infant mentioned in the divorce. Confusing. I did find Debra Ann Parsley born in Abilene on 8 Aug 1950 to Opal Parsley with no father's name given. As a side note, it turns out that Opal Parsley's parents were Demetrius and Ora Johnson Parsley. Demetrius died in 1946, and his widow, Ora ended up marrying Henry Paul Hudman, Paul's father! All in the family.

On 18 June 1954, he married Virginia Kidd about 6 months after Opal had married George Herrington. George must have adopted Debbie and she ended up marrying Ray Inzer in 1970. Meanwhile, Paul and Virginia and a son, Micheul (yes, that is how it is spelled) on 11 July 1955 and a daughter Tamela on 11 June 1958 almost 3 years after the birth of her brother.



IT LOOKS GOOD, BUT — Two-year old Mike Hudman can't decide whether to take the strawberry soda or change his mind and ask for an orange. There was too much choice for a young man at the Home Demonstration Clubs' booth at Soil Day on the Comer Haynes farm Tuesday. Mrs. Archie Wilson, left, of the Pleasant Hill club was as busy as could be serving cold drinks, homemade sandwiches and pie to the 1000-1200 people who attended the program. Mike's mother, Mrs. Paul Hudman of Rt. 5, Abilene, accompanied her husband for the day, but found the cold drink stand more popular with Mike than the silo demonstration which interested her husband. (Staff photo by Don Hutcheson)

Paul seemed to be a farmer/rancher near Merkel. In 1957, Virginia and Mike appeared in this article. In 1959, Paul was in a news article about Mike having been nearly shot while playing in his front yard when some out-of-control teenagers were shooting at a rabbit that was near Mike.

In 1961, Virginia's mother, Polly died. Virginia was the 7th of 10 children born to Alfred and Polly Martin Kidd. They were farmers from an area west of Sweetwater near a town called Loraine. I was amused that her youngest brother was named Billy Kidd. I bet he got a lot of grief over his name.

Son Micheul married Becky Kimbrell in 1974 and they had at least one child. Tamela married Michael Dean Sloan in 1977 and they had at least one son.

Records appear to indicate that Paul and Virginia divorced in Feb 1983 after almost 30 years of marriage.

On 7 Jun 1984, Paul's father died and 6 months later Paul died. His obituary reads:

Paul Hudman - MERKEL

. William Paul Hudman, 54, of the Stith community died at 6:30 a.m. Wednesday in Ballinger Memorial Hospital, following a sudden illness. Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Starbuck Funeral Home. Burial will be in Stith Cemetery.

Born April 21, 1930, in Bronte, he had lived in Stith the past 15 years. He had served in the Army in Germany during the early 1950s. He was a member of Hodges Baptist Church. He married Frances Kidd June 11, 1954, in Loraine. Survivors include his wife of the home; a son, Micheul of Stith; a daughter, Pamela Sloan of Munday; a brother, Benjamin of Fort Worth; a sister, Cordie Beatrice Staats of Dallas; and three grandchildren.

Stith is a very small community north of Merkel which must be where his farm was. It looks like maybe he and Virginia reconciled before his death. We see that there is an additional grandchild that I have not yet identified.

I have not found an obituary for Virginia, but records indicate that she died in Abilene in 1996. Below are couple of articles that I found about Paul's business and his involvement with the local water district. It looks like his son took over his business after his death.

S.U.N. sets annual meeting

The annual meeting of the S.U.N. Water Corporation will be May 12th at 7:30 p.m. at the Taylor Electric Conference room here. Three directors will be chosen. Candidates are Hugh Baker, Gerald Rutledge, Ronnie Freeman, Bill Tims, James L. Jay and Jim Helm.

Each member of the corporation is urged to attend and vote. There will be door prizes, a good program, refreshments and fellowship. "The Melody Five", composed of Sybil South, Jean Irvin, Jake McMillon, Ray McCarty and Georgia Higgins will entertain. Joe McDuff, charter member and past president of the corporation, will have interesting comments concerning the organization, growth, development of S.U.N.—some informative—some comical.

This will be a night for remembering those who have played a major role in the corporation. The annual meeting is being dedicated to the memory of Vincent Barnett, Cramer Reynolds, A. C. Bland, Paul Hudman, and Hollis Irvin. All current and past directors of the corporation are also being honored. These include Leon Kelso, Carol Best, Tom Hogan, Joe McDuff, Odell Freeman, Joe Henry, Max Murrell, Vernon Stanley, Roy Mashburn, Othel O'Kelly, Truett Jeffrey, Jack Boone, Larry Dudley, Gary Heuerman, Edd Jones, Dollye Reddin, Jacky Reynolds, Bill Tippen, Gerald Rutledge, and Hugh Baker.

Only those owning a membership in the corporation are eligible to vote. However, if you live on property serviced by S.U.N. with the membership there belonging to the owner of the property serviced by S.U.N. with the membership there belonging to the owner of the property, you are not qualified voter unless the member has give you his proxy in writing and delivered to the corporation on or before the time of the meeting. We welcome any guests who may be interested in learning more about S.U.N. or just enjoying an evening of getting to know the people who are your neighbors and friends.

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After finishing this and working on another person, I discovered Virginia's obituary. It looks like she went by Frances.

Frances Hudman - Frances Hudman, 67, died Tuesday in a local hospital. Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday in Starbuck Funeral Home Chapel in Merkel. Burial will be in Stith Cemetery. Mrs.

Hudman was born in Loraine and was a homemaker. She worked as a beautician at Pearline's in Merkel for about eight years and was a member of Stith Home Demonstration Club. She was a Baptist and was the widow of William Paul Hudman, whom she married in 1954 in Loraine. Survivors include one son, Mike Hudman, of Merkel; one daughter, Tammy Sloan of Stamford; two brothers, Jack Kidd of Missouri and Billy Kidd of Washington; one sister, Bobbie Armstrong of Fort Worth; four grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Children of Paul and Virginia Kidd Hudman

433	Micheul Hudman	1955	Paul and Virginia's child#1
434	Tamela Nanette Hudman	1958	Paul and Virginia's child#2

433 Micheul Paul Hudman 11 JUL 1955 • Tom Green, TX - Living

Becky Lynn Kimbrell 1957 – Living

Marriage: 19 Jul 1974 • Taylor, Texas, USA



I think that Micheul was Paul's first child. There was that mysterious daughter that his first wife Opal had before they were married whose birth certificate des not list a father. That being said, let's assume that Micheul was his first child.

He nearly didn't make it past childhood as described in this article from 1959: *BUNNY OR BOY? DEATH WAS NEAR*

The car load of boys zoomed along Curry Lane Sunday night about 8.30 p.m. Suddenly the car's spotlight flicked out the form of a cottontail rabbit beside the road. Shots rang out and the bunny kicked his last.

What the spotlight did not show the young hunters: the form of young Mike Hudman, 4, playing in his front yard, only 15 feet away from the place where the rabbit fell dead. His father, Paul Hudman, said Sunday night this was the last straw for the family, whose farm house sits just off the road. The Hudmans live on Curry Lane about four and a half miles from the Buffalo Gap Rd. Last year Hudman lost a whiteface yearling to rabbit hunters.

Residents of the area, Hudman said, are being menaced daily by hunters firing down the roads or into the roadsides after spotlighted game. "They're breaking two or three laws," he declared. He said he was appealing to Sheriff's officers for protection.

He was a sophomore at Merkel HS in 1972, but does not appear in the 1974 yearbook so I'm not sure where he went. If he graduated in 1974, he got married immediately after graduation to Becky Kimbrell. I haven't been able to discover her parents, but while looking I kept running across Kimbrell Stadium at McMurry University which is in Abilene and is named after Hershall Kimbrell who was a revered coach there for many years. <https://mcm.edu/news/a-mcmurry-legend-passes/> I haven't found a connection, but would not be surprised.

They had a daughter Wendy Hudman in 1975 who was mentioned in the paper as graduating in 1993. It's a little confusing, but in 1997 she had a son, Parker Corrigan Hudman whose father was Joe Santiago Jr. I don't know if they decided to use the Hudman name because of fears of discrimination.

They had a son Jason Hudman in 1978 who seemed to have developed into a good high school football player for Merkel during the late 1990's and in 1998 committed to play football from McMurry.

Children of Micheul and Becky Krimell Hudman

931	Wendy Michele Hudman	1975	Micheul and Becky Krimell Hudman's child#1
932	Jason Paul Hudman	1978	Micheul and Becky Krimell Hudman's child#2

434 Tamela Nanette Hudman 11 JUN 1958 • Taylor, TX - Living

Michael Dean Sloan 30 APR 1956 • Taylor, TX - Living

Marriage: 20 May 1977 • Taylor, Texas, USA



Paul and Virginia's 2nd and last child was daughter, Tamela who was born in Merkel in the summer of 1958. I haven't found her in high school, but I'm sure she went to Merkel HS. She married Michael Sloan in 1977 and the wedding tells us this:

HUDMAN-SLOAN - MERKEL

Tamela Nanette Hudman and Michael Dean Sloan exchanged marriage vows Saturday in Merkel Church of Christ. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Paul Hudman. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dean Sloan are the bridegroom's parents. Robert Taylor officiated.

The bride was given in marriage by her father. Mrs. Steven Best was matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Sheila Sloan, the bridegroom's sister, and Mrs. Mike Hudman. Best man was Steven Best and groomsmen were Tommy Sloan and Mike Hudman, brothers of the couple. Ronald Hobbs and Gary Staats of Dallas seated guests and Tommy and Sheila Sloan lighted candles. The bride's parents were hosts for the reception at their home.

The bride was graduated from Merkel High School and is a sophomore at Abilene Christian University. She is employed by Abilene Drug. Also, a graduate of Merkel High School, the bridegroom is a senior at ACU and is employed in Abilene by Mac Andrews Furniture. The couple will live at 69912 B College Dr. after a trip to New Mexico. The bridegroom's parents hosted the rehearsal dinner at Big Country Inn.

This gives us some clues to Michael's siblings and parents and confirmation of their being classmates at Merkel HS. I looked again and she was a year behind him in school. I had not found it before until I searched for Tami.

I don't know what they ended up doing but they did have two children that I have found. They would be Dustin K Sloan in 1980, and Krista Nicole Sloan in 1984. Further, I found that Dustin married Mika Goad in 2007 and Krista married Eric Wilson in 2010.

Children of Tamela and Michael Slon

933	Dustin K Sloan	1980	Tamela Hudman and Michel Sloan's child#1
934	Krista Nicole Sloan	1984	Tamela Hudman and Michel Sloan's child#2

This completes William Paul and Virginia Kidd Hudman. It was completed on 24 Apr 2025.

173. Benjamin Ray Hudman 21 OCT 1932 • Bronte, TX - 23 MAY 2001 • Azle, TX
 La Wanda Merle Sisson 11 SEP 1932 • Clarendon, TX - 22 MAR 2009 • Azle, TX
 Marriage: 10 Jun 1950 • Taylor, TX



Ben and Wanda's obituary pictures

The youngest son of Henry and Minnie was their youngest son Ben who was 6 years younger than his big brother, but only a couple of years younger than Paul. I'll bet he and Paul had a lot of adventures together growing up in Bronte and Abilene. He would have been 10 when brother Joe died. He appears in the 1940 Census at home in Bronte with the family while in 1950, he is staying with his father at the Bluebird Inn after his parent's divorce in 1941. He would have been going to high school. He was too young for WW2 and right after the 1950 Census in June 1950, he married La Wanda Sisson who was about a month older, but they were both only 17. La Wanda was the only child of Roy and La Wanda Sisson. Her father had served in WW1 and was a barber.

Discussing their children gets a little tricky. I'm fairly certain that their first child was Douglas Ray Hudman who was born 18 Sept 1951 in Taylor, TX and then he was followed by Ronald Wayne Hudman on 19 May 1955, also born in Taylor, TX. In his obituary, he then mentions, Patricia, Hope, and Katie but as I worked through his history, I came to the conclusion that Patricia and Hope were probably adopted and



Katie was actually their granddaughter, the daughter of Patricia who had died in 1997. Before I walk through that, let me share what I have learned about Ben and Wanda. In 1950, Ben seemed to be a track star in high school and was captain of the track team. For some reason their marriage is not written up, but he was the best man to his brother when he got married in 1952 to his first wife Opal and Ben and Wanda hosted the reception at their home at 842 Cypress St, Abilene. It's a vacant lot now. In 1954, he was recognized for giving a news tip to the newspaper. In May 1955 the birth of their son Ronald was reported while they lived at 2818 College St. In 1955, they were reportedly living in Andrews (where I was born). There are several mentions of real estate transactions and listings by a Ben Hudman, but I am not sure if this is our Ben. In 1965, he may have been in Lubbock and returned to Abilene for a party.

From City Directories, in 1953, He and Wanda lived at 2242 Hunt and he was a clerk for West Texas Utility Co. In 1968, he was in Fort Worth living at 1208 Belle Pl and working as an analyst for a Testing Company. In 1971 they had moved to 4001 Sanguinet Court and his company was TESCO. There is a TESCO Grocery chain and a TESCO Auto Parts, but I don't know if either if these were what he worked for. They were living there in 1974 when their son Douglas Ray married Debra Klein who had graduated from TCU while Doug had gone to Texas Wesleyan. His parents died in 1983 and 1984.

Ben died in 2001 and La Wanda in 2009, both in Azle, TX. Let's look at their obituaries for some clues and then I will discuss the children.

Ben's obituary from 2001 reads:

Ben Hudman AZLE

Ben Hudman, 68, a retired insurance agency owner, died Wednesday, May 23, 2001, in Azle. Funeral: 10 a.m. Friday at White's Azle Chapel in Azle. Burial: Ash Creek Cemetery in Azle. Ben Hudman ended his long struggle with cancer at home surrounded by his family.

His courage and strength over the past years were an inspiration to all who knew or met him. Ben was a husband for 50 years, a father for 49 and a friend for even longer. In business, Ben was a professional. Ben and Wanda owned and operated their own successful insurance agencies for many years. He knew the business from end to end, always treating his clients with honesty and respect.

Ben was a friend to all those who needed one, whether they could offer anything in return or not. He was a father not only to his children but to countless kids who had no other place to turn. However, first and strongest Ben was a husband to Wanda for over half a century. When the preacher joined the two as one, he took it to heart and lived it every day. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Patricia.

Survivors: Wife, Wanda; daughters, Katie Hudman of Azle and Hope Hudman of Arlington; sons and daughters-in-law, Doug and Debra Hudman Azle and Ron and Cherie Hudman of Port Aransas; mother-in-law, Mildred Sisson of Abilene; grandchildren, Jennifer, Matthew and Lindsey Hudman; sister and brother-in-law, Bea and Don Staats; several nieces and nephews; and his dear friend, Jimmie Burrell. White's Funeral Home Azle, (817) 444-3211.

Here we see mention of apparently 5 children, Katie, Hope, Doug, Ron, and the deceased Patricia.

La Wanda's obituary from 2009 reads:

LaWanda Merle Hudman AZLE

LaWanda Merle Hudman, a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away Sunday, March 22, 2009, at the age of 76. FUNERAL: 10 a.m. Wednesday in White's Azle Chapel. Interment: Ash Creek Cemetery. Visitation: 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at White's Azle Funeral Home. MEMORIALS: In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a donation to a favorite children's charity or animal shelter.

While the final count will never be known, Wanda and Ben Hudman's house, in their 50 years of marriage, was home to over 150 children. Some were born there, some stayed only a short while, and others, a lifetime. Ben and Wanda never met a child in need that they didn't try to help.

In addition to raising their own children, as short-term, long-term and emergency-care foster parents for two counties, Ben and Wanda provided hot meals, a warm bed and loving arms to a countless number of forgotten, neglected and abused children. When oldest son, Douglas, would come home from school every day, his first question as he set the dinner table was always: "What's the headcount tonight?"

Wanda was preceded in death by her husband, Ben; her son, Ron; and her daughter, Patti. SURVIVORS: Her son, Douglas Hudman and wife, Debra, of Azle; daughters, Hope Hudman of Arlington and Katie Hudman of Azle; grandchildren, Dr. Jennifer Hudman and wife, Carmen, of Azle, Matthew Hudman and wife, Heidi, of Azle and Lindsey Hudman and her other half, Brandon Leirer, of Arlington; great-grandchildren, Noah, Nathaniel, Jake, Eliana and Lily; and many, many friends of both the two- and four-legged varieties. White's Funeral Home Azle

In looking at her list of survivors, we see that son Ron has died as well as previously mentioned Patricia. Douglas, Hope, and Katie are still in the picture and we have a slew of grandchildren and spouses. Let me take the children in order.

The oldest son, Douglas were living nearby in Azle. As we had noted above, he married in Debra Klien in 1974 and they have at least one child, Jennifer Michelle who is mentioned above as being a doctor. I have not explored that generation.

The 2nd oldest, Ron had moved to Port Aransas and become a computer specialist there before passing away 8 months after his father. He does appear to have been married briefly from 1977 to 1981, but had a longtime companion, Cheri Chauncy at the time of his death.

I believe that Patricia was one of their foster children that they adopted. I base this on the fact that she was born in Garden City, KS in 1962. In 1993, she had a daughter Katie a month before marrying Stephen Marquis who she divorced 4 years later. She then married and had a son Dale Spurling in March 1997 before marrying his father a month later. She then died in November 1997. I suspect that Dale Jr stayed with his father, but I'm pretty sure that her daughter is the Katie mentioned as Ben and La Wanda's child.

I have not found out anything about Hope, but generally if she were a child of Ben and La Wanda, a Texas birth record would be easily found and I have not found any, so I suspect that she is another one of the foster kids that stayed. There is a photo of Hope Hudman in Ft Worth in 2010 and she looks to be Hispanic.

I did find Dr. Jennifer Michelle Hudman as a pediatric doctor at Harris Methodist Southwest in 2008.

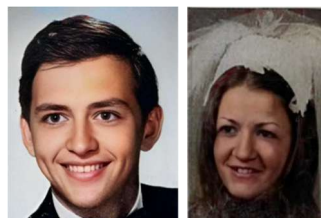
Children of Ben and La Wanda Sisson Hudman

435	Douglas Ray	1951		Ben and La Wanda Child#1
436	Ronald Wayne Hudman	1955	2001	Ben and La Wanda Child#2
	Patricia Hudman	1962	1997	Foster child
	Hope Hudman	?	?	Foster child
	Katie Hudman	1993?	?	Adopted Grandchild (Patricia's daughter)

435 Douglas Ray Hudman 18 SEP 1951 • Taylor, TX - Living

Debra Kay Klein 3 JUN 1952 • Parker, TX - Living

Marriage: 8 Jun 1974 • Tarrant County,



As I indicated in his parent's biography, I believe that Ben and La Wanda had two children and adopted several more. Their first child was son Douglas who was born a year after the 1950 Census in Abilene before his parents moved to Fort Worth. He appears to have graduated from Arlington Heights HS in Fort Worth in 1970. In 1974, he married Debra Klein as described here:

Hudman-Klein

Miss Debra Kay Klein and Douglas Ray Hudman were married June 8 in Castleberry Church of Christ by Patrick Farish, minister. Parents are Mr. and Mrs. Newton Klein, 2712 Beverly Hills Drive, and Mr. and Mrs. Ben Hudman, 4001 Sanguinet Court. Honor attendants were Ms. Patricia Robertson, the bride's sister, and Gene Fondren.

The newlyweds will live in Dallas. Mrs. Hudman is a TCU graduate and her husband received his degree from Texas Wesleyan College.

I haven't found out what career Douglas ended up in but would not be surprised that he followed his father in the insurance business. I was interested in the Klein name since we live near Klein, TX, but I did not find any connection. She was the daughter of Jake Newton Klein (1929–1984) and Vada Adeline Prather (1932–2015). After Jake's death in 1984, she married James Buchanan Clark (1915–1992) and then upon his death she married Nelson Drannon Byerly (1930–2012). Debra has one sister that is about a year older.

Doug and Debra had 2 daughters and a son as shown below. It appears that Jennifer has become a OBGYN Dr in Fort Worth and has a partner named Carmen Bohannon and they married in 2015.

Matthew married Heidi Lynn Ooten in 2001 and Lindsay married Brandon Michael Leirer in 2010. Per La Wanda's obituary there are a number of grandchildren that I have not identified.

Children of Doug and Debra Klein

935	Jennifer Michelle Hudman	1976	Doug and Debra Klein Hudman's child#1
936	Matthew Ray Hudman	1979	Doug and Debra Klein Hudman's child#2
937	Lindsey Ann Hudman	1986	Doug and Debra Klein Hudman's child#3

I have chosen not to dig into the children who I suspect are adopted and information is difficult to find. I think that Benjamin and La Wanda's spirit of giving and caring is commendable and they certainly seem to have had a positive impact on hundreds of struggling kids. We should all be so good.

This concludes my study of the descendants of Henry Paul and Minnie Odom Hudman. It was completed on 29 Sept 2024. As usual if you read this and have corrections, additions, or clarifications, please contact me at rbills_houston@yahoo.com.

This concludes my 2025 update with as much information as I could find about children. After working on a few New Mexico and Arizona branches of the family it was exciting to work on a Texas based branch where records are so much more accessible. This was completed on 23 Apr 2025.