

8. The children and grandchildren of Sophronia Paralee Smith Hudman and Benjamin Monroe Hudman

As usual I will leave a brief introduction of the parents below before starting the children's stories.

54. Benjamin Vernon Hudman 12 MAY 1899 • High Rolls, NM - 3 SEP 1961 • High Rolls, Otero, NM
 Ruby Scott 12 OCT 1902 • Mayhill, Otero, NM - 28 OCT 1999 • Alamogordo, Otero, NM
 Marriage: 4 Sep 1921 • Mountain Park, NM



Photo of Benjamin and Ruby from Ancestry posted by multiple people.

Benjamin was the 8th child of Sophronia and Benjamin though not a Jr, he was obviously named after his father. He came right after three sisters in a row so his parents were probably pleased for another boy. After his father's death in 1919, it seemed to fall on his shoulders to put things together and take care of his widowed mother in the immediate aftermath. Once thing settled down, he married Ruby Scott in 1921. Ruby was the 2nd oldest child of Jasper and Mary Barkley Scott. Both of here parents were from Texas, but they moved out to New Mexico before their first child was born in 1901. They began their family shortly after their wedding with the arrival of Eric Newton Hudman 1922, Leona Lenore Hudman 1923, and Ina Hudman 1926.

They felt like that was enough and didn't have any more. That seems to be out of character for a Hudman. The 1930 Census found them still in Mayhill and Ben was working for the State Highway Department as a truck driver. They were renting whatever place they lived in which was not a farm. They did not have a radio. The had been married for 8 years which sort of supports the reported 1921 wedding date. The kids were 3, 6, and 7 with an older brother and two little sisters.

Children of Benjamin and Ruby

201	Eric Newton Hudman	1922	2000	Ben and Ruby's Child#1
202	Leona Lenore Hudman	1923	2012	Ben and Ruby's Child#2
203	Ina Hudman	1927		Ben and Ruby's Child#3
204	Baby Hudman	1938	1938	Ben and Ruby's Child#4

201. Eric Newton Hudman 24 AUG 1922 • High Rolls, NM - 23 FEB 2000 • Alamogordo, NM
 Marie Louise Hawkins 1 OCT 1932 • Decatur, AR - 28 NOV 1995 • Alamogordo, NM
 Marriage: 16 May 1949 • Benton, ARK



Photos of Eric and Louise from Ancestry

Ben and Ruby's first son was Eric Newton, born in High Rolls in 1922 and first showing up in the 1930 Census in 1930 by which time his father was a truck driver for the State Highway and he had been joined by his two younger sisters. In 1940 they had returned to farming in High Rolls and Eric had finished his junior year of high school. The earliest mention that I found of him in the news was when he attended his uncle Ed Billups

funeral in 1950, but before that, he registered for the WW2 Draft in Jun 1942 when he was 19 and was working for the Sacramento Mountain Coop in Mountain View, NM. His mother in High Rolls was his point of contact. He was 6'-0"-150lbs-brown eyes and hair-ruddy complexion. I have not found any evidence of Eric having served during WW2.

He next appears in the 1950 Census where he was living with his married younger sister Leona in Alamogordo and working as a service station attendant. Now that's a job that has gone the way of the buggy

whip. Sometime shortly after the 1950 Census, he married Marie Louise Hawkins, but I have not found records or a newspaper listing, but a daughter Lola Jean was born in 1951 so that is my best estimate.

Taking a look at Marie, I found that she was ten years younger than Eric and born in Decatur, Arkansas to Owen Hawkins, Sr and his 2nd wife Rosa Mae Smith. Her father had 4 daughters and a son with his first wife, Ida Litterell between 1889 and 1906 before her death in 1910. He then had 5 sons followed by Marie and finally a 6th son, Owen Jr in 1934, so Marie had 7 brothers and 4 sisters ranging from 2 years younger to 43 years older! That's quite a spread. Records show that in May 1949 when she was 17, she married Glen William Grimm in Benton, AR who was 12 years older. My suspicion is that family must have intervened and told Glen to get lost because in 1950, Louise appears up in High Rolls with her older brother Paul Hawkins and listed as separated. I've done a bit of a search on her family and they all seem to have ended up in Arkansas, Missouri, and Kansas, but one interesting item that I ran across involves her younger brother, Owen Jr who seems to have gone by Junior all of his life. When he died in Bentonville, Arkansas in 2008 he had a stepson named Bill Clinton! Based on his age and his wife's age, she could not have been the mother of President Clinton and I haven't been able to track down anything about him, but I bet he had an interesting life growing up in Arkansas with that name.

Not a lot of records exist for Eric and Louise as she went by, but I found the following random bits of information. In 1953, Louise got a new sewing machine for her birthday on 1 Oct (which is my son's birthday). In Feb 1954, they moved onto the Patterson farm and planned to farm with Mr. McKnight. In Dec 1955, daughter Jean had tonsilitis. In 1955, Louise and her brother Paul brought her father and stepmother to New Mexico for a visit. In Aug 1955 they moved to the John Lewis place.

In 1965, Louise was elected treasurer of the Alamogordo Extension Club. In Aug 1965, I found this disturbing report: *Benefit Party It's always a pleasure to see good folks rally 'round need, to help and someone in time of a double pleasure when we can add a word to help the work along. For that reason, we're glad to be able to announce a cook party for the benefit of Mrs. Louise (Eric) Hudman, to ware be held at the home of Mrs. Tommy McNatt, this 1802 week from Florida, 3 Thursday of until 7 p.m. Mrs. Hudman, of Tularosa, suffers from muscular dystrophy, and few months ago suffered a fall which has incapacitated her and prevented her from working. She is desirous of entering the Spears Chiropractic Hospital in Denver, where it is believed she can obtain material assistance in regaining her health, but at least \$500 will be required for her to enter. Friends are conducting a campaign to raise her behalf, with the party Thursday a highlight event of the drive. Any other donations may be turned in to Sheriff James George at the courthouse or to Mrs. McNatt at her home. The McNatt phone number is 437- 9194.*

After 1965, the news articles disappear until I found obituaries. Marie Louise died in 1995 and her obituary reads:

OBITUARY November 30, 1995 "Alamogordo Daily News" Alamogordo, New Mexico

Marie Louise Hudman, 63, longtime Alamogordo resident, died on November 28, 1995 at Gerald Champion Memorial Hospital. She was born on October 1, 1932 in Decatur, Arkansas, the daughter of Owen and Rose Mae (Smith) Hawkins. She was a homemaker. She was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, Paul Hawkins and Ray Orval Hawkins; and a grandson. Survivors include her husband, Eric Newton Hudman; her daughter, Lola Jean Hudman of Alamogordo; her brothers, Claude Leslie Hawkins of Glendale, Arizona, Fay Franklin Hawkins of Fairfield, California, Owen Hawkins, Jr. of Decatur, Arkansas, and Paskel Boyd "Pat" Hawkins of Hugoton, Kansas; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Funeral services will be conducted at 2 p.m. Friday at First Assembly of God Church with Pastor David Crispin officiating. Interment will follow in Monte Vista Cemetery under the direction of Hamilton Funeral Home.

From this, we learn that their only daughter, Lola Jean had been married and had a son who had died before 1995, but was not married in 1995. Following this lead, I was able to track down the fact that Lola married Wilburn William Cooper about 1972 and they had a son, Timothy Eric Cooper in Kansas on 11 June 1974 in Kansas. I have not discovered what happened to that marriage, but it apparently did not go well because Wilburn married 2nd to Dee Anne Hueske in 1982 in Fort Bend County. I have not traced Dee Ann thoroughly, but she seems to have been born in Corpus Christi, TX in 1956 and married a few times before as evidenced by this note from her obituary from 2012: *Dee is survived by her loving husband of 30*

years, Bill Cooper; her son Christopher Cooper and his daughter, Desiree; her daughter, Casie Cooper, her husband, Cody Havemann, and their daughter, Peyton; sisters, Lexy (Alexia) and her husband, Michael Bieniek, and their children, Emily and Alex Bieniek, and his wife, Misty; Brenda and her husband, Rene Halbardier, and their children, Tawanda and Geoffry; Cathy Hueske and her husband, Russel Robbins, and their son, Andrew.

I am a bit amazed by this because when she and William married in 1982, she was only 25 so it looks like she married young and often! As we can see, she and Wilburn then had a son Christopher and two daughters, Desiree and Casie. The son that Wilburn and Lola had, Timothy Eric Cooper, died in 1995 in Houston. I have been unable to find any details. He was only 21 and had married Kathy Lynn Owen a couple of years before his death and listed Dee Ann as his mother. This suggests the breakup between Wilburn and Lola Jean may not have been amicable. That and the fact, that Lola reverted to her maiden name and does not seem to have remarried.

Eric died in Feb 2000 and his obituary reads:

ALAMOGORDO Eric N. Hudman, 77, of Otero County died Wednesday (Feb. 23, 2000). Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday in Hamilton O'Dell Funeral Home.

Graveside service will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday in Monte Vista Cemetery. Burial will be in the same cemetery. Survivors include his daughter, Lola Jean Hudman; two sisters; four grandchildren; and five greatgrandchildren. He was an auto mechanic and lifelong Otero County resident. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, Community Organization, Central Processing Center, P.O. Box 5377, Phoenix, AZ 85010-5377.

This obituary produces some questions that I have not yet been able to answer. Eric mentions 4 grandchildren. This may suggest that Lola and Wilburn had some additional children other than Timothy who died in 1995, or that she married again after separating from Wilburn. Based on her birth in 1951, she would have been about 21 when she married Wilburn so she had ample opportunity to have married and had other children, but she is still called Lola Hudman in 1995 and 2000. In 1995 when her mother died, no grandchildren were mentioned, yet 5 years later there are 4. I'm confused.

Child of Eric and Louise Hawkins Hudman

502	Lola Jean Hudman	1951	Eric and Marie's child
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202. Leona Lenore Hudman	19 DEC 1923 • Mayhill, NM - 11 JUL 2012 • Alamogordo, NM
James Dee McKenzie	1 JUN 1922 • Hagerman, NM - 26 MAR 2009 • Alamogordo, NM
Married: 7 May 1942 per WW2 questionnaire	



Photos of Leona and James from Ancestry

Leona followed her big brother Eric into the family in 1923 in Mayhill, NM and like her brother, first appears in the 1930 Census and then next in the 1940 Census in High Rolls where the census indicates that she had completed her 3rd year of high school, so this suggest that she probably graduated in 1941. I have been unable to find marriage records, but I begin seeing mentions of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. McKenzie as early as Oct 1942 so my guess is that she graduated and got married. (I just found his WW2 questionnaire and he notes that they were married on 7 May 1942) James had only completed 8th grade so he must have been helping his parents at their truck farm in La Luz. James was the son of Thomas Andrew and Susan Jacobs McKenzie, he from Tennessee and she from Arkansas. James was the youngest of 4 with two older sisters and 1 older brother, Melba, Leonard, and Doris.

In June 1942, James registered for the WW2 Draft at the age of 20. Leona was his point of contact, and they lived 319 E. 6th, Roswell where he worked for Nolan & Wagner at the Airbase in Roswell. He was 6'-1"-153lbs-blue eyes-blond hair-light complexion. A month later, JD enlisted in the Army on the 19th of

November in Alamogordo. I found his WW2 questionnaire which says that he only completed the 7th grade and had been a truck driver before enlisting at Fort Bliss in El Paso. His serial number was 33215134 and he served in the Army Air Force and achieved the rank of PFC. A little contradictory note says that he was with Co. B, 175th Engineers. He was discharged at Fort Bliss on 29 Oct 1945. After training in Kentucky for about 3 ½ months, he shipped out to North Africa on 19 Apr 1943 headed to North Africa. He spent the next 2 ½ years supporting the troops as a truck driver as they worked their way from Naples through the Po Valley. At the conclusion of the war in Europe, he shipped out on 29 Sep 1945 arriving stateside on 15 Oct and was discharged two weeks later. If you want to explore his service in detail, here is a link to the history of his unit and their march through Italy. It's comprehensive at 647 pages.

<https://cgsc.contentdm.oclc.org/utis/getfile/collection/p4013coll8/id/3695/filename/3705.pdf>

This article appeared in Jan 1943: *Mrs. J D. McKenzie who is visiting her husband in Army Service away up north in Kentucky, writes back home that she misses New Mexico's bright sunshine. Those of us who have lived in the north and east with its air always full of moisture and soot from its countless manufacturing plants, so that no one there ever sees the sun in its beauty and brilliance of the Southwest, can well understand how much she misses our New Mexico sunshine.*

Records and news over the next few years are a little sketchy, but it appears that JD and Lenora had 2 sons, whose birthdates are approximate but the boys are James Edward McKenzie abt 1951–1952 and Frank Henry McKenzie abt 1954, both born in New Mexico.

In 1958, JD was a trustee of the Church of Christ in Alamogordo and it defaulted on its mortgage

as was foreclosed and he was named along with other trustees in the legal notices. In 1969, he bought a couple of service stations. These were located at the north and south end of the main drive in Alamogordo, so they probably did a pretty good business.

James died in 2009 and his obituary reads:



James McKenzie Obituary

James D. McKenzie, 86, a longtime resident of Alamogordo, died Thursday, March 26, 2009, in Alamogordo.

Mr. McKenzie was born June 1, 1922 in Hagerman, New Mexico to Thomas Andrew and Susie Frances (Jacobs) McKenzie. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II, and was retired as a truck driver. He was a member of the Cuba Ave. Church of Christ.

Survivors include his wife of 67 years Leona McKenzie of the family home; two sons, James Edward McKenzie of Texas, and Frank Henry McKenzie of Alamogordo; two grandchildren, James Donald McKenzie of Las Cruces, and Vernon Andrew McKenzie of Alamogordo; a sister Doris Gregg of Nevada; and a sister-in-law Ina Wohlenberg of Alamogordo.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother Leonard Gregg; and a sister Melba Wilcox. Private interment will be in Monte Vista Cemetery under the direction of Hamilton-O'Dell Funeral Home. To sign the online guestbook, please visit www.hamiltonodell.com.

From this, we learn that Leona was still living in 2009 and that they had two sons, one in Texas and one in Alamogordo and that in 2009, they have two grandchildren. We also learn that his sister, Doris had married someone named Gregg, his older brother and sister were deceased and that sister Melba had married someone named Wilcox. Researching further, I learned that son James Edward married Jackie Lang in 1972 and they had 3 children before divorcing in 1979. He then married Carol Lansford in Midland, TX in 1982 and they had a son, James Donald McKenzie in 1983. This is one of the two grandchildren mentioned above. I'm not certain why the first 3 were not mentioned. They were 2 girls and a boy born between 1972 and 1978. My guess is that Vernon Andrew must have been the son of Frank Henry, but I have not found any record of Frank's marriage, or any confirmation of Vernon. Since they are all from New Mexico where records are hard to come by, it will remain an open question for the time being. I'm curious as to why James Edward's son was in New Mexico, while he was in Texas.

I have been unable to find an obituary for Leona who died in Alamogordo in 2012. Perhaps if one exists, it might clear up some of these questions. For now, that is all I have on the McKenzies.

Children of Leona and JD McKensey

503	James Edward McKenzie	1951	Leona and James Child#1
504	Frank Henry McKenzie	1954	Leona and James Child#2

203. Ina Mildred Hudman 10 JUN 1926 • Mayhill, NM = 20 APR 2024 • Las Cruces
 William Earl Wohlenberg ABT 1923 • New Mexico - 1 APR 1988
 Marriage: 13 Jul 1946 – Las Cruces, NM



Ina photo from her recent obituary. Bill's photo from a 1955 news article in The Palm Beach Post.

While I thought that Ina was Ben and Rosy's last child, while working on this family, I discovered that in Apr 1938, they had a stillborn child. Ina arrived in Mayhill, NM in Jun 1926 and joined here older brother and sister on the family farm. Like her siblings, she appears in the 1930 and 1940 Censuses at her parent's home. In the 1940 Census, she had completed her first year of high school. Searching newspapers, I found that she graduated in Las Cruces in the class of 1943 with a total of 35 classmates and was part of the graduation program where she "performed credibly". On 13 July 1946, she married William "Bill" Wohlenberg who was attending college after his time in the service. They were married in The First Baptist Church in Las Cruces by Pastor S. M. Maddox and witnessed by Paul Crane and Jozelle Sensing.

Bill was born in Tularosa, NM in 1923 to Charles and Lillian Wohlenberg. Charles was a 2nd generation German who was born in Arkansas, while Lillian was a New Mexican girl and Bill was the middle child of 3 boys, Charles Jr, Bill, and Frederick. Bill and Ina started their family in 1947 with the arrival of son William Jr. In 1950, Bill graduated from New Mexico State University with a degree in electrical engineering. They expanded their family after graduation with the arrival of what appears to be twins Candice and Lanice in 1952. I haven't found birth records, but both of their marriage records show their birth year to be 1952. They rounded out their family with the arrival of daughter Shelley in 1956.

The article that is shown above was describing Bill's work at White Sands Missile Range in 1955 so he must have been working with a couple of his Billups cousins. Through the late 1960's and early 1970's there are numerous articles about Ina's prowess as a bowler. She seemed to have been quite good and frequently made headlines with her victories. In 1969, son Michael who had graduated in 1965 and joined the Air Force, married Mary Jane Cowell in San Bernadina, CA while stationed at Norton AFB. He later served in Vietnam. In 1972, Bill and Ina were volunteers with the Las Cruces Red Cross. In 1970, daughter Lanice married Charles H. Jiron who was the oldest son of Harry and Minnie Jiron and was 11 years older than Lanice. They both seemed to attend New Mexico State University after their marriage. Daughter Candice married Gary Guzie in 1976. The marriage record shows that he was born in Allentown, PA in 1949 and that he had graduated in finance from LeHigh University. He was the son of Andrew and Laura Bush Guzie and his father had worked in a steel mill in 1950.

William died in 1988 and his obituary reads: *William E. Wohlenberg, retired engineer William E. Wohlenberg, 64, of Las Cruces died Friday (April 1, 1988). His body will be cremated. He is survived by his wife, Ina; his son, Michael Wohlenberg; and his daughters, Anise Giron, Candice Guzie and Shelley Wohlenberg. He was a retired electronics engineer. Arrangements by Graham's Mortuary.*

From his obituary we can see that his son and three daughters are still around, but Lanice is mistakenly identified as Anise Giron when it should have been Lanice Jiron. It suggests that Shelley had not yet married before her father's death.

I had not been finding anything about Ina after this until I chanced to Google her name and lo and behold, up popped her recent obituary from only 6 months ago which is good for genealogy, but sad for the family. Her obituary reads:

On Saturday, April 20, 2024, Ina Mildred Wohlenberg at the age of 97 passed away peacefully in Las Cruces with family by her side. She was born Ina Mildred Hudman on June 10, 1926 in Mayhill NM to parents Ruby Leora Scott Hudman and Benjamin Vernon Hudman.

She was preceded in death by her husband William (Bill) Wohlenberg, parents, Ruby and Vernon Hudman, siblings, Eric Hudman and Leona McKenzie, son and daughter-in-law Michael and Sherry Wohlenberg, Grandson Jason Jiron, and son-in-law Charles Jiron.

She is survived by daughters and sons-in-law Lanice Jiron, Candice and Gary Guzie, and Shelley and Tom Hansen, and numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren.

To honor Ina's wishes, she has been cremated and no funeral services are planned. Donations to the Alzheimer's Association for research are greatly appreciated.

Ina was raised in the Mayhill and High Rolls, NM area. She graduated from Alamogordo High school. In 1945 she married her life-long partner Bill Wohlenberg. She and Bill made Las Cruces their home raising four children.

Ina's life was centered around family. As a homemaker, wife, and mother she raised her children in a happy and loving home to be thoughtful and caring adults. She was always there to guide, comfort, share a meal, talk, provide rides, babysit, organize vacations, or whatever was necessary.

The family would like to thank granddaughters Danielle Steigerwalt, Cortni Shelton, and Brittani Hansen for their help in providing care for the past six years and Mesilla Valley Hospice for their assistance in end-of-life care.

From this obituary, we learn that their oldest son, Michael and his wife Sherry have died. This suggests that he married a 2nd time as I found that he and his first wife divorced in 1982 after their marriage in 1969. I have not found out who his 2nd married was to.

Lanice's husband Charles has died as well as their son. What I have discovered about this is that Charles died in Feb 2002. He seems to have been very active in the Las Cruces community. They had a son Jason in 1975 and Jason was killed by a drunk driver in 1995, though I haven't found the details other than this quote I found on a website: *It has been 13 years since the passing of this wonderful man. Since his death there has been a park named after him in Dona Ana. As you all know Jason was killed by a drunk driver on Cinco de Mayo and I would like to ask each of you to remember that when you drink and drive you could be destroying more than your own life. Jason will always be remembered!*

Daughter Candice and Gary are still married. I suspect, but do not know if Danielle and Cortni are their daughters. I also learn that their youngest daughter Shelley married Tom Hansen after 1988 and they have a daughter Brittani Hansen.

Children of Bill and Ina Hudman Wohlenberg

505	Michael Earl Wohlenberg	1947	2002	Ina and William's child#1
506	Anise Ellen Wohlenberg	1951		Ina and William's child#2
507	Candice Edith Wohlenberg	1952		Ina and William's child#3
508	Shelly Wohlenberg	1956		Ina and William's child#4

204 Infant Hudman 13 APRIL 1938 • Mayhill, New Mexico - 13 APRIL 1938 Mayhill, NM

There is not much to be said. The only evidence is a Findagrave Memorial with no photo of a grave marker. I have not found a news article about this death.

This completes my study of Benjamin and Ruby Scott Hudman and their 4 children. This was completed on 30 Oct 2024. Should you have updates and corrections, please contact me at rbills_houston@yahoo.com.