

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

As usual, I will leave a brief portion of their biography for continuity before digging into their children's stories. We will be looking at:

30	Nannie Mae Smith	1893	1977	Samuel and Mary Child#1
31	William Smith	1896		Samuel and Mary Child#2
32	Jesse Harvey Smith	1897	1969	Samuel and Mary Child#3
33	James Andrew Patrick Smith	1900	1933	Samuel and Mary Child#4
34	Samuel Oscar Smith	1903	1977	Samuel and Mary Child#5
35	Velma Louise Smith	1907	1972	Samuel and Mary Child#6
36	Dixie Virginia Smith	1909	1986	Samuel and Mary Child#7

- 6. Samuel Oscar Smith** 11 APR 1856 • Atascosa, TX - 28 JUNE 1920 • Douglas, Cochise County, AZ
 Mary Elizabeth Virginia Renfro 27 DEC 1869 • Dallas, TX - 27 JULY 1934 • Pasadena, CA
 Married 15 Sept 1885 Runnels, TX – per Alvy and Nancy Nielson

Samuel was the 5th child of Jesse and Elizabeth. He was born in 1856 after the family moved to Atascosa. He appears in the 1860, 1870, and 1880 Censuses living in his parent's home in Atascosa. By 1880, he was 23 and helping Jesse on the family ranch in Runnels and then Tom Green County near San Angelo. Per notes in Alvy's book, he married Mary Renfro in Runnels County in Sep 1885. I have not yet located that record myself. Mary's background is a little tricky. She appears to have been born to William J. Renfro and his first wife Christian Chambers. I still have some questions about this as we find her in the 1870 Census with her apparent father William from Iowa aged 20 and her mother Christian aged 25 and two children Cyrus aged 3 and Mary age 5 months. This would suggest that William and Christian got married in 1864 when he was 16 and she was 21. I'm inclined to believe that Christian was previously married, but that is just speculation on my part.

30. Nannie May Smith 19 MAY 1893 • New Mexico - 10 JUL 1977 • Ventura, CA
 John Edward Gallagher 30 OCT 1893 • Portage County, Wisconsin - 19 AUG 1945 • Las Vegas, NV
 Married: about 1912 – New Mexico. Records have not been found by me, but someone has posted on FamilySearch that it was 12 Oct 1912 in Silver City.



As we learned from Nannie's father's biography, she was a well-traveled young lady in her early years, as he went out mining in New Mexico and seemed to have done well as a miner as well as a father since Nannie was one of three siblings born there before he headed back to Texas and bought a ranch in Sterling County where Nannie first appears in a census. There is some confusion if Nannie was their first child since in the 1900 Census, her mother

claims to have had 8 children with only 4 surviving and in 1900, there are 4 children in the household. Records seem to indicate that her parents were married in 1885, so they may well have lost 4 between 1885 and Nannie's arrival in 1893. If that is the case, I'm sure that she was a blessing.

In the 1900 Census, Nannie was 6 and had three brothers, William 6, Jesse 1, and Patrick 0 and born after their arrival back in Texas. A copy of that census is shown below. In addition to her brothers, her grandfather Jesse was living with them and he was 80 and widowed.

Surname	Given Name	Relationship	Race	Gender	Birth Month	Birth Year	Age	Marital Status	Years Married	Number of Children Born	Number of Children Living	Birthplace	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Occupation	House Owned Free or Mortgaged
1900 Census	Justice Precinct 4, Sterling, Texas															
Smith	Sam O	Head	White	Male	Apr	1856	44	Married		15		Texas	Alabama	Louisiana	Farmer	Mortgaged
Smith	Jennie	Wife	White	Female	Dec	1869	30	Married		15	8	Texas	Tennessee	Mississippi		
Smith	Nannie M	Daughter	White	Female	May	1894	6	Single				New Mexico	Texas	Texas		
Smith	William	Son	White	Male	Aug	1896	3	Single				New Mexico	Texas	Texas		
Smith	Jesse H	Son	White	Male	Dec	1898	1	Single				New Mexico	Texas	Texas		
Smith	Patrick	Son	White	Male	May	1900	0	Single				Texas	Texas	Texas		
Smith	Jesse	Father	White	Male	Apr	1820	80	Widowed				Alabama	North Carolina	South Carolina		

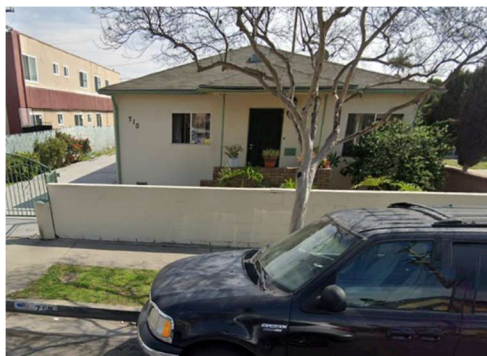
Her father must have gotten tired of farming and ranching as he was drawn back to the New Mexican mines, this time in Silver City. They had one more son in Texas in 1904 when Sam Jr was born and then moved back to New Mexico about 1906 and had two more sisters, Velma and Dixie for Nannie to babysit. Nannie seems to have lost her brother William during this interval as he has disappeared by 1910.



I'm going to skip ahead to 1920 at this point as much of the above is a repeat of Sam Oscar's biography. We will start with the marriage of Nannie to John Edward Gallagher around 1912. I've had some problems confirming John's background, but from the 1920 Census, we know that he was born in Wisconsin in about 1893. It appears that his father was John Nemeson Gallagher who was also born in Wisconsin in 1853 and died in Indiana in 1911. His mother was Lura Douglas who was born in Missouri in 1863 and probably died in California in 1935. John was a railroad man and in 1920 he was 27 and a foreman. He and Nannie had their first child, John Jr in New Mexico followed by daughters Virginia in 1918 and Lura (named after his mother) around 1920. They lived at 626 16th Street in Douglas, AZ right next door to her parents and several of her siblings. That photo is what is there today. Surprisingly, I have been unable to find John's registration for the WWI Draft. Maybe railroad workers were exempt.

Surname	Given Name	Relationship	Home Owned or Rented	Home Free or Mortgaged	Sex	Race	Age	Estimated Birth Year	Marital Status	Birthplace	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Occupation	Industry
1920 Census	Douglas Ward 6, Cochise, Arizona													
Gallagher	John	Head	Rented		Male	White	27	1893	Married	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Missouri	Foreman	Railroad
Gallagher	Nannie	Wife			Female	White	26	1894	Married	New Mexico	Texas	Texas		
Gallagher	John	Son			Male	White	5	1915	Single	New Mexico	Wisconsin	New Mexico		
Gallagher	Virginia	Daughter			Female	White	2	1918	Single	Arizona	Wisconsin	New Mexico		
Gallagher	Lura	Daughter			Female	White	0	1920	Single	Arizona	Wisconsin	New Mexico		

After a 10-year break between children, John and Nannie had a third daughter, Gwendolyn after having moved from Arizona to California. I have not discovered what prompted that move, but there was a pretty good migration to that state during the period John was still working for a railroad and he was a fireman, which makes me wonder if he had been a fireman instead of a foreman in 1920. They lived at 1314 South Fetterly in Montebello, CA. Montebello is a small city in the shadow of LA about 8 miles from downtown. It was incorporated in 1920 and through the 1920's and 1940's a lot of Japanese American farmers settled there until they were removed from their homes during WW2, never to return. Oil was discovered there in 1917 and at one point it produced 1/8th of California's oil production. The name means beautiful mountain. From the census in 1930 we learn that John and Nannie were both 19 when they married which equates to a wedding in 1912 or 1913. They were renting their house for \$25/month and they had a radio. They had a 26-year-old lady boarder, Margarite Johnston who was from Oklahoma and working as a waitress. Their neighbors seemed to be mostly blue collar and there must have been a tire factory nearby as there were lots of folks that worked at one. I found this interesting article about a huge Goodrich Tire Factory that opened there in 1928. <https://homesteadmuseum.blog/2019/11/04/a-pneumatic-palace-the-goodrich-tire-plant-4-november-1928/> All of the older kids were in school and Nannie had a new baby to



take care of. The 1937 City Directory shows them living at 710 S. Ford and John was working for Union Pacific RR. It's a nice-looking little place not far from their previous address. Today it is between IH5, SH60, and just east of Loop 710. Redfin said it sold for \$18,000 in 1976, but is worth \$709K today.

Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head of Household	Home Owned or Rented	Home Value	Radio Set	Lives on Farm	Gender	Race	Age	Year of Birth	Marital Status	Age at First Marriage	Attended School	Able to Read and Write	Birthplace	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Occupation
1930 Census	1314 South Fetterly Ave	Montebello, Los Angeles, California																
Gallagher	John	Head	Rented		25	Yes	Male	White	40	1893	Married	19	No		Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Missouri	Fireman
Gallagher	Nannie	Wife					Female	White	36	1894	Married	19	No	Yes	New Mexico	Texas	Texas	
Gallagher	John	Son					Male	White	15	1915	Single		Yes	Yes	New Mexico	Wisconsin	New Mexico	
Gallagher	Virginia	Daughter					Female	White	13	1917	Single		Yes	Yes	Arizona	Wisconsin	New Mexico	
Gallagher	Lura	Daughter					Female	White	11	1919	Single		Yes	Yes	Arizona	Wisconsin	New Mexico	
Gallagher	Gwendolyn	Daughter					Female	White	0	1930	Single		No		California	Wisconsin	New Mexico	
Johnston	Marguerite J	Roomer					Female	White	26	1904	Single		No	Yes	Oklahoma	Michigan	Kansas	Waitress

After the 1930 Census, John and Nannie gave it one more shot in 1933 and welcomes a new son, Gordon in January. Sometime after Gordon's birth, they moved from California to Las Vegas. The 1940 Census shows them living at 214 W 1st St, Las Vegas, NV, John was 46 and still working as a fireman and Nannie was also 46 and had Gwendolyn and Gordon at ages 10 and 7 at home and both in elementary school. John and Nannie had both only completed 8th grade. They owned their home and it was worth \$2000. First street today is on the edge of the Las Vegas Strip and whatever they lived in in 1940 has long since disappeared.

Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head of Household	Gender	Race	Age	Year of Birth	Marital Status	Attended School or College	Highest Grade Completed	Birthplace	Citizenship	Residence City in 1938	Employment Details	Duration of Unemployment Prior to Census	Occupation
1940 Census	214 W 1st	Las Vegas, Clark, Nevada			2000										
Gallagher	John E	Head	Male	White	46	1894	Married	No	Elementary school, 8th grade	Wisconsin		Los Angeles	No		Fireman
Gallagher	Mannie	Wife	Female	White	46	1894	Married	No	Elementary school, 8th grade	New Mexico		Los Angeles	Home Housework		
Gallagher	Guadalupe	Daughter	Female	White	10	1930	Single	Yes	Elementary school, 6th grade	California		Los Angeles			
Gallagher	Gordon	Son	Male	White	7	1933	Single	Yes	Elementary school, 4th grade	California		Los Angeles			

Their oldest son John seems to have stayed behind in Montebello and had married Marjorie Stricklin sometime before the 1940 Census and he was working for the Continental Can Company. He was 25 and she was 22 and they had not yet started their family.

Daughter Virginia had also stayed behind in Montebello and was living with an older couple from Michigan, the Bealers. She was an operator at a beauty shop. For some reason, she had never spent much time in school and had only completed the 4th grade. I wonder how that happened. I thought that they had truant officers back then.

Daughter Mary Lura had also stayed behind in California and although I haven't found her in the Census, she is featured as a freshman at UCLA and a member of the Theta Upsilon Sorority.

After the 1940 Census, as we know, America was plunged into WW2 on 7 Dec 1941 with the bombing of Pearl Harbor. I'm curious as to how the part of the family still in Montebello were affected by the round up of the Japanese Americans. I'm sure that they were aware of it and having lived in the area for over 10 years, they may have had friends and neighbors that were affected.

I don't have the dates, but son John served in the Merchant Marine during the war. Even though they had married before 1940, they had postponed having children until Jan 1945 with the birth of Kathleen followed by John Edward (named after his father and grandfather) in Sep 1947, and William Daniel in Jul 1949.

I haven't put all of the pieces together yet, but will fill in same gaps when I do the next generation, but it seems that Virginia married Charles Siddle around 1943 and they had a daughter, Terry in Dec 1944. Charles was a Canadian who had worked for US Tire and Rubber at the time he registered for the draft in

1940 and he was married to another young lady at that time. I have not yet determined if he served during WW2.

Mary Lura's future husband George DeVries enlisted in 1941 and served until Jan 1946. He and Mary must have gotten married about 1946 right after his discharge. They welcomed a daughter Sharon in Dec 1946.

Gwendolyn being much younger, didn't marry until later and her husband, John Dolph was also too young for WW2. We will go into detail about them later.

Finally, son Gordon having been born in 1933 was too young for WW2 and did not marry until later.

John died in Las Vegas on 19 Aug 1945 a mere three weeks before the surrender of the Japanese in Sep 1945 which ended WW2 and two weeks after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Dying as he did at age 51, I'm uncertain if he lived long enough to retire from the railroad, but he did seem to have had a pension. He had registered for the WW2 Draft in 1942 at age 49. He was working for Union Pacific at the time and their address was 214 R Street which suggest that the 1940 Census must have been written incorrectly as noted above. He was 5'- 11" and 205lbs with blue eyes, gray hair and a light complexion. He had an extra-large vaccination scar on his left arm. I remember everyone having smallpox scars when I was growing up, but I guess its not a thing anymore. I have not found an obituary and do not know his cause of death.



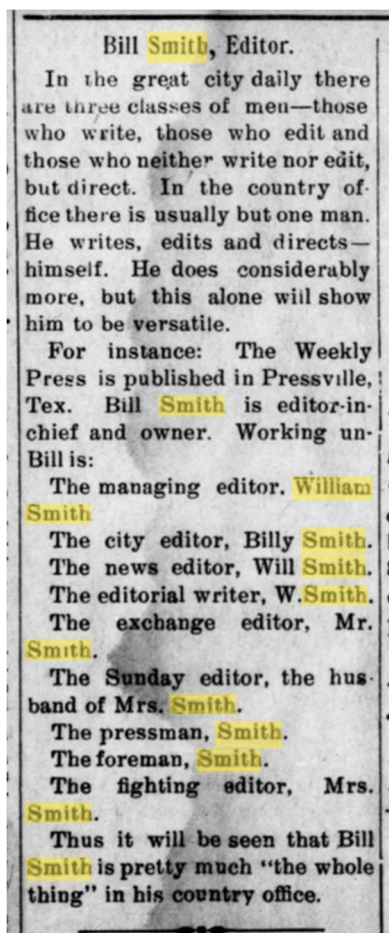
After John's death, Nannie moved back to California, probably because all of her kids were there. The 1950 Census found her at age 57 living in Colton, CA with Gwen and Gordon who were 20 and 17 at the time. They also had 18-year-old Hugh Jones who was West Virginia living with them. She must have been living on John's pension as no one was working. I ran across a news article about her building a new home in Colton at 477 G street that cost her \$2880. Redfin says it sold for \$388K in 2021.

Virginia lived until 10 July 1977 when she died in Ventura CA. Sadly, a couple of months before her death, a granddaughter Wendy was murdered in LA.

Children of John and Nannie

129	John Edward Gallagher Jr	1914	2007	John and Nannie's child#1
130	Virginia Ruth Gallagher	1917	1994	John and Nannie's child#2
131	Mary Lura Gallagher	1919	1973	John and Nannie's child#3
132	Gwendolyn Laverne Gallagher	1930	1995	John and Nannie's child#4
133	Gordon Frederick Gallagher	1933	2021	John and Nannie's child#5

31. William Smith AUG 1896 • New Mexico – DEATH: Unknown



There is little to be said about William. He appears in the 1900 Census in Sterling, TX at age 3 and then is never heard from again. While searching for him I did find this amusing article which highlights the problems of doing genealogy when your name is Smith.

Since we know that the family was back in New Mexico by 1909, maybe he died on the trip back. I researched travel methods during this period and they most likely traveled by railroad or covered wagon still. Since they were relocating all of their household goods, I suspect that they made the trip in horse drawn wagons and this certainly have been a perilous adventure. It's fun to speculate, but that is all this is. Another thing to consider is that Samuel's father was with them in Sterling in 1900 and then died in Cloudcroft about 1902 so perhaps Sam and family dropped his father off in Cloudcroft with his older sister, Minnie as they headed to Silver City.

32. Jesse Harvey Smith 30 DEC 1898 • Los Cruces, NM - 28 NOV 1969 • Beeler, Ness County, KS
 Margaret Grace Sturtevant 10 MAR 1903 • Wayne County, Iowa - 26 AUG 1929 • Soulsbyville, CA
 Married: 31 May 1928 • Los Angeles, California (Probably Pasadena)
 Lola Vera Bigler 14 JUL 1916 • Golconda, AZ - 18 OCT 1977 • Los Angeles County, CA
 Marriage: 7 Dec 1931 • Los Angeles, CA (again, probably Pasadena)
 Sylvia Fay McBride 21 JAN 1908 • Beeler, Ness, KS - 23 AUG 1989 • Beeler, Ness County, KS
 Married: About 1947 probably in Nevada



The only photo that I can find for Jesse and two of his wives are from Findagrave. Margaret does not have a photo except her death notice which I just added. I will post it below later. I found this one of Lola posted by Retha41 on FamilySearch along with several others.

Jesse was the third child born to Sam and Mary Smith in New Mexico in 1898 shortly before they head back to Texas in a covered wagon. He shows up in the 1900 Census in Sterling County which as been described in his father's biography so we will skip ahead a few years as I haven't found much of significance in his early history. He was still at home in 1910 in Silver City, NM and continued living at home for the next 10 years, but sometime after 1910, they moved to Douglas, Arizona and Jesse got a job working for the railroad and had become a foreman. I wonder if his big sister Nannie's husband had any role in Jesse landing this job since he was a longtime railroad employee. In 1920, Jesse was called Harvey and was 22 and single. Nannie had married and William had disappeared 10 years earlier so he was the oldest son. He had a younger brother, Sam Jr, and two younger sisters, Velma and Dixie in their rented home in Douglas, Arizona. In 1917, Jesse registered for the WW1 Draft while still living in Douglas, AZ. He was living at home with his parents at 812 19th St, Douglas and was working for the Thomas Starett Co. which was apparently a company based in West Virginia that produced explosives most likely to serve all of the miners in the area. He was of medium height and build and had blue eyes and light hair. Interestingly, when he registered in Sep 1918, he was in West Virginia where his company was based and they must have sent his registration to his local board in Douglas. This creates a little confusion which I have not been able to unravel. The 1930 Census indicates that Jesse was a veteran, but his registration in Sept 1918 is two months

Surname	Given Name	Relationship	Home Owned or Rented	Home Free or Mortgaged	Sex	Race	Age	Estimated Birth Year	Marital Status	Birthplace	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Occupation	Industry
1920 Census	Douglas Ward 6, Cochise, Arizona													
Smith	Sam	Head	Rented		Male	White	64	1856	Married	Texas	Alabama	Mississippi		
Smith	Virginia	Wife			Female	White	50	1870	Married	Texas	USA	Alabama		
Smith	Harvey	Son			Male	White	22	1898	Single	New Mexico	Texas	Texas	Foreman	Railroad
Smith	Sam	Son			Male	White	17	1903	Single	Texas	Texas	Texas	Helper	Railroad
Smith	Velma	Daughter			Female	White	12	1908	Single	New Mexico	Texas	Texas		
Smith	Dixie	Daughter			Female	White	10	1910	Single	New Mexico	Texas	Texas		

before the end of WW1 on 11 Nov 1918 at 11am. I looked into this and discovered that although the war ended in 1918, the negotiations for the treaty lasted until late into 1919, and the US Army maintained a large military presence in occupied Germany after the war. I have been unable to find definitive military service records for Jesse, but we know he was out by 1920.

As we saw above with Nannie, his big sister and husband had moved to southern CA in the late 1920's and Jesse appears to have tagged along because in 1928, he took the plunge and got married for the first time. On 31 May 1928, he married Margaret Grace Sturtevant most likely in Pasadena CA where her parents, Elbert and Clara lived. Margaret had been born in Iowa, but had moved to California by 1910. She had an older brother and then lost a sibling after her birth before having a younger brother in 1919. Her father was a dairy farmer. His youngest sister, Dixie, was a witness at his wedding along with her future

husband Earl Brown. Sadly, Margaret's father died a month after her marriage, and then Margaret's mother died two months before Margaret's death in May 1929 only 15 months after her marriage to Jesse. Her father's death date is thrown in question by this notice of her death, but newspapers don't make mistakes, do they?

We can surmise from this article that Jesse and Margaret had moved to Soulsbyville, CA where he may have been still working for the railroad. Soulsbyville is an unincorporated census-designated place in Tuolumne County, California. Formerly a California Gold Rush town, Soulsbyville is now registered as a California Historical Landmark. Here is a link to some of the town's history:



<https://www.mymotherlode.com/community/guide/tuolumne/soulsbyville>

The 1930 Census found the single Jesse in Shasta, CA still working for the railroad at age 32. He lived on Railroad Ave, which is found in Redding CA which is a town in far north California that lies in the shadows of Mt Shasta. The 1930 Census was taken less than two years after his brief marriage to Margaret and her subsequent death in 1929.

Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head of Household	Home Owned or Rented	Home Value	Radio Set	Lives on Farm	Gender	Race	Age	Year of Birth	Marital Status	Age at First Marriage	Attended School	Able to Read and Write	Birthplace	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Occupation
1930 Census	Railroad ave	Township 1, Shasta, California			No	No	Male	White	32	1898	Single		No	Yes	New Mexico	Texas	Texas	Fireman
Smith	Jesse H	Head			No	No	Male	White	32	1898	Single		No	Yes	New Mexico	Texas	Texas	Fireman

Lola rebounded from Margaret's death by marrying Lola Bigler in Los Angeles County on 4 Dec 1931. Lola was the daughter of JH and Myrtle Bigler. JH was from Missouri and Myrtle from Illinois, but in 1920 he was a shoemaker in Antelope, CA a suburb of LA. Lola had been born in Arizona and by 1930, she was the only daughter with an older brother and two younger brothers and they had moved to Kern County where her father worked in a borax mine. Lola's mother had died about the same time as Jesse's first wife and she was only 15 when she married Jesse who was 32. While their marriage didn't last long, it did result in the birth of daughter Wilhelmina Smith on 1 May 1932 in LA County and son Don Robert Smith on 27 Aug 1933 also in LA County.

Meanwhile, in Oct 1938, Lola married John Ruggio, a 22-year-old originally from Colorado and they quickly set about expanding their family by having a daughter Darlene in 1939 and a son Martin in 1940. Lola had taken her children with Jesse with her and they are shown as Don's stepchildren in the 1940



RUGGIO-SMITH — John Ruggio, 22, Colorado and Lola Vera Smith, 22, Arizona, both residents of Los Angeles.

Census. They lived at 2738 Johnston St in LA County in a rented house that cost them

\$25/month rent. Both Lola and John claimed to have had two years of high school while Wilhelmina and Don had completed 1st grade. John was a brass polisher. This is what the house looks like today. Looking at John a little bit – he was born to Anna and Martino Ruggio who had immigrated from Italy, he in 1908 and she in 1909. They moved to Colorado and had 8 children all born in Secundo, Colorado between 1910 and 1926 with John

being the 5th and born on 20 March 1918.

Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head of Household	Gender	Race	Age	Estimated Birth Year	Marital Status	Attended School or College	Highest Grade Completed	Birthplace	Citizenship	Residence City in 1935	Occupation
1940 Census	2738 Johnston St	Los Angeles, Los Angeles, Rented			25								
Ruggio	John	Head	Male	White	22	1918	Married	No	High School, 2nd year	Colorado		Pueblo	Brass Polisher
Ruggio	Lola	Wife	Female	White	23	1917	Married	No	High School, 2nd year	Arizona		Los Angeles	
Ruggio	Darlene A	Daughter	Female	White	1	1939	Single	No	None	Same Place			
Ruggio	Martin	Son	Male	White	12-Jan	1940	Single	No	None	Same Place			
Smith	Wilhelmina	Stepdaughter (St)	Female	White	7	1933	Single	Yes	Elementary school, 1st grade	Same Place		Los Angeles	
Smith	Don R	Stepson (Step S)	Male	White	6	1933	Single	Yes	Elementary school, 1st grade	California		Los Angeles	

It gets a little tricky for Jesse around this time. After his divorce from Lola, he moved to Tonopah, NV, and was living alone at an undisclosed address and paying rent of \$5/month. It's not clear if he and his 3rd wife Sylvia were together at this point, but she was living either in the same house with her daughter, May Olla Myers from Sylvia's first marriage to Lester David Meyers. They had married in Colorado in 1926 and had a daughter in 1928 before divorcing at an unknown point. In 1942, Jesse registered in the WW2 Draft and at that time he and Sylvia were sharing a house at 646 N 15th, San Jose California. He was working for the Southern Pacific Railroad headquartered in San Francisco and his place of work was the Roundhouse in San Jose. He was 5'-8" – 170lbs – blue eyes – brown hair – light complexion. Sylvia was using his last name at this time, but I have been unable to find any marriage records.

Meanwhile, Lola and John were living at 3229 ½ Humboldt in Los Angeles when John registered for the WW2 Draft in Oct 1940. John was working for the California Brass Factory. John was 5'-8" – 137lbs – hazel eyes – brown hair – light complexion. John was half Jesse's age at 22. It does not appear that either man served during WW2.

Things did not go well with Lola and John and a petition for divorce was filed in Oct 1944. Surprisingly, John remarried someone named Betty J from Indiana and John took his two children, Darlene and Martin from his marriage to Lola with him.

I finally found Lola in the 1950 Census in a very messy census form that has been transcribed as Lola V. Ruggs. It is further transposed to show her job a to be a butcher which is actually the job of the man that she was renting a room from. She was in fact, a telephone operator at a hospital. The address is undecipherable. Jesse and Sylvia had moved back to Tonopah, NV where they had been for the 1940 Census after having spent time in San Jose. In Nevada in 1948, 49-year-old Jesse and 40-year-old Sylvia gave birth to Walter Smith. Jesse, Sylvia, Sylvia's daughter May Olla now 22, and Walter appear together in the 1950 Census with no jobs listed for anyone. They are also hosting a 70-year-old divorced lodger named Fred Erwin.

It's hard to tell if he maintained a relationship with his children with Lola. Wilhemina married Kenneth Van Knighton in 1949 and I haven't found in children yet, but will dig deeper in the next generation. Son Don seems to have married Kay Marie Christian at some point, but a lot more research is still need on him. He seems to have taken and kept his stepfather John Ruggio's name.

I lose track of Jesse after 1950. From all indications, he and Sylvia moved to Kansas after 1950 where they are both buried. Sylvia was originally from Kansas so I would guess that they moved there to help her aging parents. Jesse died there in Nov 1969 and Sylvia died there in 1989 and I have not found obituaries. Lola married Alexander Thomas in 1955 and they had a daughter Retha about 1955.

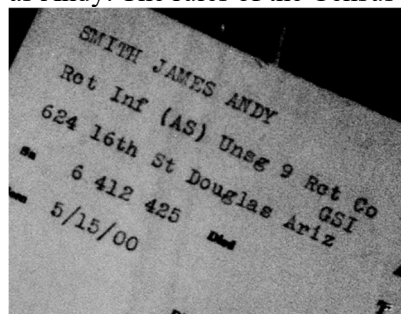
Jesse's offspring and stepchildren from his and his wives' various relationships

133.2	May Ollie Myers	1928	Stepdaughter from Sylvia's - Lester Myers
134	Wilhelmina Smith	1932	Jesse Harvey and Lola Child#1
135	Don Robert Smith	1933	Jesse Harvey and Lola's child#2
136.2	Darlene Ruggio	1939	Stepdaughter from Lola and John's Child#1
136.3	Martin John Ruggio	1940	1984 Stepdaughter from Lola and John's Child#2
136	Walter P Smith	1948	Jesse Harvy and Sylvia's Only Child

33. James Andy Patrick Smith 15 MAY 1900 • Sterling City, TX - 17 JANUARY 1934 • Pasadena, CA
Nola Lee Simpson 17 SEP 1899 • Globe, AZ - 15 FEB 1975 • Glendale, CA
Marriage: 16 June 1924 • Gila, Arizona

Another case where there are no photos of headstones. I added a picture of a news article about his death which I will share later and updated Nola's site.

James was the 4th child of Sam and Mary Smith arriving after two older brothers (one who died after his birth). He arrived a couple of months before the 1900 Census in Sterling identified as Patrick and then traveled with the family back to New Mexico where he shows up in the 1910 Census now identified as Andy. The rules of the Census were to list your age as of the 1st of May, so Andy is listed as 9 instead of 10 since his birthday was on the 15th. I have detailed all earlier items in his parent's biography so I will skip repeating much of that and jump to specific items about James Andy Patrick Smith (I'm uncertain of his actual name, but he seems to have settled on James Andy).



When he turned 18 in 1918, he was obligated to register for the WW1 Draft and in the registration, he called himself James Andy. He was living with his parents at 812 19th St in Douglas, AZ and working as a garage mechanic at Mansfield Auto Repairs on G Ave between 14th and 15th St. He was tall and slender with gray eyes and brown hair. Military records have been hard to track down, but on FamilySearch I found this card which belongs to him. It appears that he was in the infantry, but unassigned and had moved

to 624 16th Street. It gives his Serial Number as 6-412-425, but that did not yield any hits on Fold3. Here is



a picture of that address and I think that I've posted it above with another family member. I took a quick look at G Ave and surprisingly, there is an auto repair place there today, though surely not the one where James worked.

James' father Sam died in 1920 and I have not been able to find James in the 1920 Census. It is highly likely that he may still have been deployed with the Army in the aftermath of the Great War.

Upon his return to Arizona, he married Nola Price on 16 June 1924 in Globe AZ. Looking more closely at Nola, we find that her maiden name was actually Simpson and her brother and sister-in-law were witnesses at their wedding. Nola had previously married Richard Clifton Price in 1917 and she and Richard had daughters Mamie Edith Price 1918 and Hazel Lee Price 1920. While I don't have records, she and Richard must have divorced in the early 1920's. Richard was ten years older than Nola and was from North Carolina and worked for the Great American Smelting Company in 1917.

After the 1920 Census, California called and James, Nola and the two girls moved to Pasadena, CA. The Census found James delivering groceries and living in a rented house at 1703 N. Oxford in Pasadena, CA. He was 29, Nola 30, and the girls were 11 and 9. Nola was 4 months older than James and the Census fell between their birthdays so she looks to be a year older. The Census confirms that James was a WWI Vet. As we know, the Great Depression started in 1929 which may account for James' underemployment.

Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head	Home Owned Home Value	Radio Set	Lives on Farm	Gender	Race	Age	Estimate d Birth Year	Marital Status	Age at First Marriage	Attended and School	Able to Read Write	Birthplace	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Occupation	Industry
1930 Census	1703 N Oxford St		Pasadena, Los Angeles, California															
Smith	James	Head	Rented	18 No	No	Male	White	29	1901	Married	29 No	Yes	Yes	Texas	United States	United States	Deliveryman	Grocery
Smith	Nola	Wife	16 June 1924	Globe, Gila AZ		Female	White	30	1900	Married	29 No	Yes	Yes	Arizona	Texas	Texas		
Smith	Edith	Step Daughter				Female	White	11	1919	Single		Yes	Yes	Arizona	Texas	Arizona		
Smith	Hazel	Step Daughter				Female	White	9	1921	Single		Yes		Arizona	Texas	Arizona		

One of the things that the administration of FDR did in 1933-1934 was create the Civil Works Administration. James seems to have snagged a job with the CWA during its short-lived life after which it was replaced by the WPA – Works Progress Administration. In the 18 Jan 1934 edition of the Pasadena Post, the following story appeared. (Not to be flip, but the place they were working did not have a very “politically correct” name)

CWA Men in Accident on Return from Trip with Stricken Workman POWDER EXPERT PASSES SUDDENLY

Woman Seriously Injured When Two Machines Come Together. Eleven persons were injured yesterday afternoon in a collision of an automobile and a CWA truck returning to the mountains after rushing a stricken workman to the hospital. Both vehicles were wrecked and the victims were strewn about the intersection of Ventura Street and a road leading into the Arroyo Seco. The Injured Mrs. Vivienne Hunter, 42, of 1350 Rubio Street, gashed head and possible skull fracture. Most seriously injured. Others injured were Frank Lucas, 36, of 613 Meridian Road. South Pasadena. Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Huneven, 2525 Casitas Street, cut and bruised. Mrs. Kent Braley, cut and bruised. Harry E. Gay, driver of the truck. John Cowan, Charles Richard Sampson, John and Edwin True, all workers. Powder Expert Dies. The stricken CWA worker was James A. Smith, 42, powder expert of 1255 East Villa Street. He was working with William Hawkins, 391 North Garfield Avenue, in Nigger Canyon off the upper Arroyo Seco.

Suddenly Mr. Smith complained of a severe pain, gasped a few times and died. Hoping that he might be revived, the fellow workmen placed his body upon a CWA truck and rushed to the Emergency Hospital. At the hospital the case was diagnosed as death due to coronary thrombosis, and the truck started the return trip to the canyon. As driver Gay started to turn from Ventura Street into the road leading: down into the Arroyo Seco, the car driven by Mr. Huneven came out of Casitas Street and the two vehicles



crashed. Hurlled From Car 1, Mrs. Hunter, passenger of the Hunevens, was hurled from the car and struck on her head. With Mr. Lucas, the most seriously injured of the CWA men, she was driven to the Emergency Hospital by Mrs. R. W. Briggs, 372 Crosby Street, who was hailed by Mr. Williams. Most of the others were taken to the hospital later after being given first aid treatment at the scene. The accident, being in Altadena, was investigated by Deputy Sheriffs MacVine and Hanscom.

Both Nola and James had been 34 at the time of his death and Nola was left with daughters Edith and Hazel who would have been 16 and 13 when James died. In Jan 1939, Edith married Cameron Bill Miller and in Apr 1939, Hazel married Edward J. Meyer. The 1940 Census for

Nola is a bit messed up with Nola appearing on an additional page, but if you work your way through it, you will find that she was living with Hazel and Edward at 2575 Lambert in Pasadena where Edward was a butcher who was from Pennsylvania and had completed 2 years of college. Hazel was 19 and had completed 3 years of high school, while Nola had completed 8th grade. Cameron Miller and Edith both had one year of college and he was a painter and also from Pennsylvania. I need to sort Cameron out in the next generation as his paternity is jumbled. Nola also lost her mother in 1939.

Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head of House	Gender	Race	Age	Estimated Birth Year	Marital Status	Attended School or College	Highest Grade Completed	Birthplace	Citizenship	Residence City in 1935	Occupation
1940 Census	2575 Lambert D	Pasadena, Los A	Owned	6850	Note -	Nora is on page 38 and Hazel on page 5							
Smith	Nola Lee	Mother-in-law	Female	White	40	1900	Widowed	No	Elementary school, 8th grade	Arizona		Pasadena	Housekeeper
Meyer	Edward J	Head	Male	White	22	1918	Married	No	College, 2nd year	Pennsylvania		Pasadena	Meat Cutter
Meyer	Hazel Lee	Wife	Female	White	19	1921	Married	No	High School, 3rd year	Arizona		Pasadena	

Between 1930 and 1940, Nola married William L. Miller, a gentleman originally from England. They stilled in Pasadena and he owned a lawn mower shop and sharpened mower blades. He was 57 to Nola's 50. In looking at Edith, I noticed that she and Cameron were living next door to John W. and Ida Miller and John and Cameron were apparently working together in interior design. My hunch is that John was with his father or uncle, because in all the pre- 1940 Censuses. Cameron is attached to a Frank Henry Helsel, but I need to unravel if his mother had a previous husband. In 1930, he appears as a nephew in John and Ida's household which leads me to suspect that he was born to Ida's sister as Traynor Cameron Helsel and was later adopted by his uncle John. I'm still digging, but it looks like his mother died in 1920 right after his birth. To be continued.

Nola died in 1975 as Nola Miller. I may have additional information about her as I investigate her children, but I'm not sure how much time I will spend on them since they are not direct descendants.

James' Stepchildren with Nola.

- 136.2 Mamie Edith Price 1918 1995 James Andy Smith's stepchild#1
 136.3 Hazel Lee Price 1920 1996 James Andy Smith's stepchild#2

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.

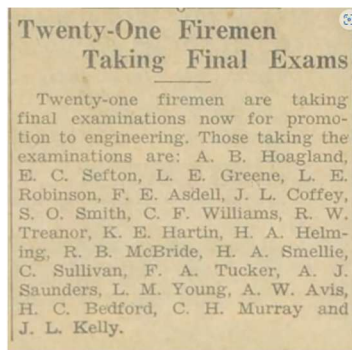
While records have not been found about his marriage, he appears next in the 1930 Census married to Goldie N. They lived at 904 North Marengo, Pasadena, CA and he was a fireman for the railroad. They rented their house for \$38/month. He was 27 and she was 20 and they had been married two years. They 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.

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

Sam and Goldie and daughter Caroline next appear in the 1940 Census living at 104 L Street in Needles, CA and Sam was still a fireman for the railroad. They owned their house that was worth \$2500. Sam was 40 and Goldie was 32 and he had dropped out of school after his junior year while Goldie had graduated. Their daughter was 11 and had finished 5th grade. He was earning \$2793.21 and had worked 52 weeks during the past year so apparently, he weathered the depression fairly well.

Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head of House	Gender	Race	Age	Estimated Birth Year	Marital Status	Attended School or College	Highest Grade Completed	Birthplace	Citizenship	Residence City in 1935	Occupation
1940 Census	109 L street	Needles, San Bernardino, C	Owned		2500								
Smith	Samuel	Head	Male	White	40	1903	Married	No	High School, 3rd year	Texas		Needles	Locomotive Fireman
Smith	Goldie	Wife	Female	White	32	1908	Married	No	High School, 4th year	Kansas		Needles	
Smith	Carolyn	Daughter	Female	White	11	1929	Single	Yes	Elementary school, 5th grade	California		Needles	

Following the 1940 Census, I found an article in The Needles Star about S. O. Smith taking fireman's training to qualify for a promotion to engineering. In Feb 1942, he registered for the WW2 Draft which tells us that he was 39, lived at 1302 M Street, Bakersfield, CA and that he worked for the Arizona Division of the Santa Fe Railroad. He was 5'-7 1/2" – 152lbs – with brown eyes and hair and a light complexion. An interesting note on the card is that he enlisted on 10/30/1943. Looking further into the news, I found that in June 1942, Goldie sued for divorce which he did not seem to contest because a week later Goldie was granted a default divorce based on extreme cruelty and that there were two children. Further investigation would lead to the fact that in June 1941, their 2nd daughter Gloria Jean was born in San Bernadino, CA. Without additional documentation, we can only speculate on what happened between the two, but being a 40-year-old divorced man, Sam must have felt he may as well enlist. I have been unable to find records of his enlistment or military service, but a VA report upon his death indicate that he served from Oct 1943 to 6 Jul 1945.



This pretty much exhausts my findings on Sam as I cannot find him in the 1950 Census. There is a marriage record for a Sam O. Smith marrying a Doris Slater/Matta in 1955, but this is not totally confirmed. There is a Doris mentioned in an obituary on Genealogybank that I am trying to access to see if it yields any more information.

Goldie is equally mysterious. In 1950, Goldie and her youngest daughter Gloria Jean appear in Clark County, Nevada and Goldie is married to a 27-year-old Frank St. Dennis who works as a telephone

Frank St. Dennis
Frank L. St. Dennis, after almost 33 months service in India with the air forces, is home here in good physical condition, but he told me that after having been away so long, and particularly in India, he is "scared to death" of the automobiles on the streets here and in other American cities. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. L. St. Dennis, of Wible Road.

operator in the Air Force. Goldie is 42 and Gloria is 8. I found this article about Frank in June 1944 describing his wartime service in the Army Air Corp in India. Then this article from July 1945 tells us that Goldie had moved to Bakersfield after her divorce from Sam and she and Frank must have married after his return from India in 1944. I did find that he had appendicitis in Mar 1944 while in the service.

Daughter Carolyn had married Gerald Miller before 1951 and had a son Jerald or Gerald in 1947. I will get into the children in the next generation.

Pfe. and Mrs. Frank St. Dennis of Las Vegas, Nev., accompanied by Mrs. St. Dennis' daughter, Miss Carolyn Smith of Bakersfield, spent Sunday in Needles visiting friends. Mrs. St. Dennis and daughter moved from Needles to Bakersfield four years ago.

Sam died in Oct 1977 and his last residence was San Diego, CA. I have not found a grave for him and I am still tracking down his obituary to see what else I can discover. I have been unable to find any information about Goldie after 1950. Another person on Ancestry suggested that she married a third time, but I have been unable to verify anything about that or her death.

Sam and Goldie's Children

137	Carolyn M Smith	1929		Sam and Goldie Child#1
138	Gloria Jean Smith	1942	2000	Sam and Goldie Child#

35. Velma Louise Smith 24 AUG 1907 • Silver City, NM - 19 JUN 1972 • Riverside County, CA
 Cornelius Ernest Meyer 26 FEB 1908 • Carson, WA - 17 FEB 1966 • Portland, Multnomah, OR
 Marriage: 1 Nov 1928 • Los Angeles, California
 George Elmer Snider 8 APR 1909 • Whatcom County, WA - 14 JULY 1983 • Pasco, WA
 Married: 1932



My mother and father with their first 5 of eight children. The oldest two boys, Cornelius Carl (Jack) Meyer and James Meyer, were by her first husband, Ernest Cornelius Meyer. – Caddie Goodlette



George and Velma - Caddie

I'm going to begin Velma's section with this biography taken from Findagrave as it is quite comprehensive and probably better than I could ever do. George is Velma and George's youngest son per my records. Below her obit, I'll add some of my standard analysis.

Velma's Bio written by George Elvin Snider - son of Velma and George Elmer Snider

Velma Louise Smith started life without a given name. Her birth certificate read, "No Name Female Smith." Her parents had decided she should choose her own name (at least that is what she told me). She was my mother, Velma Louise Smith Snider, daughter of Mary Elizabeth Virginia Smith (nee Renfro) and Samuel Oscar Smith. She was born in Silver City, Grant County, New Mexico on August 24, 1907. She passed away July 19, 1972 at the age of 64 years and 10 months.

In 1907, New Mexico was only a territory of the USA. She came into a household with 4 other children, her parents, and her grandmother. Strangely though, she never mentioned her grandmother to me. At the time of her birth, her father was working as a miner.

Mom considered herself an agnostic, but she favored her children to make their own choice. Seeking a better life, she left Douglas, AZ and moved to the Los Angeles area in the mid to late 1920's. Living in Pasadena in 1927, she met Ernst Cornelius Meyer, and they were married in 1928.

From 1928 to 1932 she was married to Cornelius Ernst Meyer and gave birth to two boys, Cornelius (Jack) Carl Meyer (born 24 Feb 1929) and James Melvin Meyer (born 15 May 1932). Shortly after the birth of her second son, she filed for divorce for irreconcilable differences. Sometime in 1932, she was united in marriage to George Elmer Snider, and to that union was born six children. The last two were twins in January 1946.

Those surviving at the time of her death were her husband George Elmer Snider: sons and daughters - Jack C Meyer of Indio, CA, James M. Meyer of Lawrence, KS, Conrad Snider of Beaumont, CA, Mrs. Maureen Rodman, of Beaumont, CA, Mrs. Velma J Cahill of Bridgeport, WA, Mrs. Kathleen Rosenfeld of Anaheim, CA, George Elvin Snider of West Covina, CA and John M Snider of San Diego, CA - George and John were twins born in 1946 on the China Lake NOTS, CA. Velma was survived also by two brothers, Jesse Harvey Smith in Beeler, KS and Samuel Oscar Smith Jr. in San Diego, CA and two sisters, Nanny M Gallagher of Oxnard, CA and Virginia (Dixie) Brown of Big Pine, CA. At that time, she had 12 grandsons and 9 granddaughters.

Four of her sons served in the armed forces. The two oldest - Jack and Jim - were in Korea in 1950-51. Jack was with the US Army as an armored tank driver and tech. Jim was in the US Navy on the battleship Missouri. Conrad Schneider - there is a story there - went into Korea in 1952 as peace was being formulated. Conrad was in the USAF as a computer technician and operator. Conrad spent 20 years in the ASAF. John Snider, the youngest son, didn't enter the USN until 1964 and ended up on ships off the shore of Viet Nam. His last duty in Viet Nam had him aboard a patrol boat going up and down the Mekong Delta. John made a career in the Navy for 20 years. George, the oldest of the twins was 4F due to being born blind in one eye.*

Although never in the military, the young George Snider became a water scientist, designing and selling water treatment equipment to industry and the military. He traveled nearly the world teaching the basics of ultra-pure water for nuclear power plants, human injection, and computer chips. He also designed water treatment equipment for steam injection in oil fields and water purification for drinking aboard Navy vessels and sailboats using reverse osmosis.

Life was not easy for Velma, but she always made the most of what they had. The family sometimes did not have quite enough to eat, but there was always something on the table at each meal. She was not a chef, but the meals she did make were healthful and filling. She did more than try to keep the family healthy. She made sure we all knew we were loved.

For herself, she loved going to the movies, especially drive-in theaters. She would watch just about anything. Then there was Erle Stanley Gardner and Perry Mason. She read nearly every Perry Mason novel written. Mom loved the Perry Mason novels. At one point Dad built her a large bookcase to hold all of her books. I was even surprised that she loved Star Trek and was as upset as I was when the series was ended.

Whenever one of her children had a problem, she was ready to go and help anyway she could. In 1964, Conrad's lung collapsed. Mom and I headed to Lincoln Nebraska Air Force Base to help Conrad's wife and four children. She and I went by bus, as Mom told me there was no way she was going to get on

an airplane. Yet in 1971, when her daughter, Bunny, needed help with a dying husband in Washington, she hopped on a plane and went to her aid. Her kids were her life.

She is laid to rest in the Coachella Valley Public Cemetery, Coachella, Riverside County, CA

**Conrad's Name-the doctor celebrating his 100th baby delivery got drunk, and when he made out the birth certificate, he spelled Conrad's last name as Schneider. Mother didn't make a big deal out of it, and all through school Conrad was a Snider. However, when Conrad joined the Air Force, he was forced to use "Schneider" on his birth certificate.*

George's life story from Findagrave

On the 6th of April in 1909, Nanny Inez (Baslee) Snider gave birth to a young son in Bellingham, Washington. She and her husband, John William Snider, named him George Elmer Snider. They already had three strapping boys, Elvin Otis Snider, Marvin Stanley Snider and Leonard Ashbrook Snider. It would be another 12 years before they added another child and it was another boy, John William Snider, Jr.

The Snider's had traveled quite a bit from Missouri to Oklahoma, Arkansas and, then, to Washington, always going from job to job. Their two older boys - Elvin and Marvin were born in Missouri, and Leonard was born in Arkansas - John William was intent on providing for his family. Washington proved to be just another place. In 1912 things were not going well in Bellingham and he moved his family to Los Angeles, CA in March of that year. He was coaxed into going by a man he had worked for in Bellingham and was promised a job when he came to Los Angeles.

Young George and family finally settled down in Pasadena, CA. George attended Pasadena High School until 1924 when he came down with small pox. He was not the first to get it. The family believes Elvin brought it into the house unknowingly. His father came down with the disease as did George Elmer. Everyone lived through this except their father. John William Snider, Sr. and George Elmer had to be taken to a hospital and they, also, came down with typhoid fever - a form of salmonella - at the hospital.

Dad did not have an easy life. He suffered a bad accident in the early 30's. He was on a motorcycle and he ran into the broadside of a car. He lost all his teeth, and, apparently, he developed epilepsy because of this. In 1929 he met Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius (Neil) Ernst Meyer. Neil's wife was Velma Louise (Smith) Meyer - my mother. Also, in that boarding house was Mary Elizabeth Virginia Smith who became George Elmer's mother-in-law. They were all living in a boarding house owned by a David Foster who Dad worked for at a car wash and car detailing shop. This is where Dad learned how to detail and paint cars.

Velma (mom) loved riding on the back of George's motorcycle - she told me this several times. They took up residence in a house in Pasadena for many years. During the ensuing years they brought four more children into the world - one boy and three girls; Conrad in 1934, Maureen in 1935, Velma Jean in 1936 and Kathleen in 1938.

Sometime in 1945, Dad landed a job at the China Lake Naval Ordinance Test Station (NOTS), CA. The town next to the base was Ridgecrest, CA. The Navy test weaponry within the valley, they still do. At the base, he did maintenance, building, carpentry and painted all sorts of military equipment. He, also, made extra money painting the cars/trucks of some officers. Dad and Mom were able to live in a duplex on the base. His epilepsy kept him out of the service. When the war ended Dad and Mom celebrated like a lot of people and Mom found herself pregnant once again. Their last child proved to be two, even though one doctor told them they were having one child and a tumor. George and John (the twins) were born 5 minutes apart a little over six months later on 18 Jan 1946. George was 5 minutes older than the tumor (LOL).

Dad had to search for a new job with the war ending and luckily his brother Marvin, who was in Indio, CA for his health, had a brainstorm of building a trailer park where "snow birds" could park their trailers all year long. These "snowbirds" would have someone keep an eye on their trailers when they were back home in the Northern climes. From 1946 to 1952 Dad helped get the trailer park built; he then helped keep it maintained and watched over the trailers parked there. His family saw three of the sons go off into the military between 1948 and 1951. Jack joined the US army in '47, Jim joined the US Navy in '49 and

Conrad joined the US Air Force in '51. All three were in Korea though not in the same area. Conrad made a career out of the US Air Force and was able to see quite a bit of the world because of that.

Dad had learned a great deal about carpentry, painting, masonry, plumbing and electricity in his early years. This helped him a great deal in his life, though his epilepsy dimmed his capabilities if he happened to have a grand mal seizure while at work. Apparently, there were times he knew a seizure was coming on. I know in the early 60's when he was driving, which he was not supposed to do, he would pull over to the side of the road if he felt a seizure coming on. Once in the early 50's I saw him have a seizure within our trailer. He picked up both Maureen and Kathy, one on each arm and carried them around for a few minutes. He then sat down and he took a good leather shoe apart with his bare hands, just pulled it apart as if he were tearing paper. After coming out of the seizure he didn't remember a thing.

In the 1960's we were now living in a house in Indio that they owned. Dad had a good job at the Coachella Feed Yard doing maintenance, all kinds of maintenance. I got my driver's license in 1961, a bit early, since Dad, being an epileptic, wasn't allowed a driver's license. From then on, I drove him to work 6 days a week. For 5 years he never took but a day or 2 off. I don't remember ever really having a vacation save for some holidays. Several times we went to Joshua Tree National Monument, especially at Easter. Mom and Dad would hide eggs for John and I, and we never did find them all. Two dozen eggs and the most we went home with was 21.

Several times we all went to Tecopa, CA to see Mom's brother, Jesse Harvey Smith along with Jack and May Meyer. It was fun even in the heat. There was a hot spring there that really felt good to soak in. Uncle Harvey had a chicken farm and sold the eggs to the small general store in the little 'village' of Tecopa.

In 1965 the Coachella Valley Feed Yard closed and Dad was out of a job. Dad went to live with Maureen to help with her kids. That left only Mom and George Elvin in the house - twin John was already in the US Navy. At the time Maureen, her second husband, Joe Rodman, and the kids, all Caswell's from her first husband (who had passed away), were living in Hemet, CA. They eventually moved to the state of Washington. I only know he seemed very happy in the Washington area as he got to be around a lot of his grandchildren. He started drawing social security at the age of 62 (1971).

He seemed to be loving his retirement when he finally passed in 1983. He is always on my mind when I am working on my house or gardening.

REMEMBRANCES:

Things I remember most was his always working. He taught me quite a bit about maintaining things; changing fuses, the old screw in type, in the electrical boxes, showing me how to turn the electric off first. He made sure I knew where gas valves were and how to turn those off. But he also taught me how to play chess. He was a reader. He read the King James Bible and the Book of Mormon along with the Erle Stanley Gardner Perry Mason books that Mom read. He loved watching sports, mainly football, and, of course he liked the movies. Later I understand he began to hate Horror films. He loved westerns and, of course, anything with John Wayne, or Randolph Scott.

Here begins my narrative.

Velma was the 6th surviving child of Sam and Mary and the first child born in New Mexico after they moved back from Texas. Brother Sam was the only Texan in the group. We discussed the early years in Sam's bio. In 1930, we find Velma with her first child Neal C (Cornelius Carl Meyer) living in a boarding house at 2126 Glen Ave, Pasadena, CA. She is married, but her husband Cornelius Meyer was counted at his parent's home at 997 North Raymond. I cannot find either of those addresses today so I don't know how far apart they were from one another, but this may be a clue to the future, because one of her fellow boarders is none other than her soon to be 2nd husband, George Snider. Cornelius was the son of John and Nora Meyer. John was from Iowa and born to German parents while Nora was from Missouri. They had moved to Washington State about the time Cornelius was born and in 1930, they were down in Pasadena, CA.

Cornelius was working at odd jobs. Meanwhile George Snider had a job at a car factory or dealership polishing cars. None had been old enough for WWI so we have no veterans as of 1930.

Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head or Rented	Home Owned Home Value	Radio Set	Lives on Farm	Gender	Race	Age	Year	Estimated Birth	Marital Status	Age at First Marriage	Attended School	Able to Read and Write	Birthplace	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Occupation	Industry
1930 Census	Pasadena, Los Angeles, Calif	2126 Glen Ave																	
Foster	Donald C	Head	Rented	25	Yes	No	Male	White	20	1910	Married	19	No	Yes	Illinois	United States	United States	Cleaner	Automobile
Foster	Marjorie M	Wife				No	Female	White	19	1911	Married	18	No	Yes	California	Massachusetts	New York		
Meyer	Velma C	Boarder					Female	White	22	1908	Married	20	No	Yes	New Mexico	Texas	Texas		
Meyer	Neal C	Boarder					Male	White	1	1929	Single		No		California	Washington	New Mexico		
Smith	Virginia E	Boarder					Female	White	60	1870	Single		No	Yes	Texas	Texas	Mississippi		
Evans	David J	Boarder					Male	White	21	1909	Married		No	Yes	Utah	Georgia	Florida	Liner	Pipe
Snider	George E	Boarder					Male	White	21	1909	Single		No	Yes	Washington	United States	United States	Cleaner Polish	Automobile
Hall	James C	Head	Owned	2800	Yes	No	Male	White	66	1864	Married	25	No	Yes	Wisconsin	Canada	Canada		
Hall	Mary	Wife					Female	White	66	1864	Married	25	No	Yes	Iowa	Ireland	Ireland		

Cornelius and Velma apparently hadn't given up in 1930 because in March 1932, they had a 2nd son, James Melvin in Pasadena, but this was not enough to keep the marriage intact. Around 1932, I assume after James' birth she married George Snider. George was born to John and Nannie Snider in 1909 in Washington State. John and Nannie had worked their way from Kansas to Missouri to Arkansas to Washington and finally to Pasadena CA where John died in 1926. His mother lived until 1961.

George and Velma wasted no time in starting their own family with the arrival of Conrad Schneider 1934, Maureen Snider 1935, Velma Jean Snider 1936, and Kathleen Snider 1939. See the explanation for

Age	Year	Estimated Birth	Marital Status	Attended School or College	Highest Grade Completed	Birthplace	Citizenship	Residence City in 1935	Occupation
15									
30	1910	Married	No	High School, 2nd year		Washington		Pasadena	Car Washer
31	1909	Married	No	Elementary school, 8th grade		New Mexico		Pasadena	
11	1929	Single	Yes	Elementary school, 4th grade		California		Pasadena	
8	1932	Single	Yes	Elementary school, 1st grade		California		Pasadena	
5	1938	Single	Yes	None		California		Pasadena	
4	1936	Single	No	None		California			
3	1940	Single	No	None		California			
1	1939	Single	No	None		California			

Conrad's different last name in the obituary above. It's quite funny and reminds me of my mother telling me that she had spelled Brian as Brain on my birth certificate. I guess they got it fixed. I was interested to see that Jack and James were not listed as stepsons and carried the last name of Snider in the census. We see that George had a couple of years of high school and was still in the car cleaning business, while Velma only finished 8th grade. The two older boys were in elementary school while the new kids were too young for school. They lived at 959 South Raymond which sounds like it may have been close to where Cornelius was in 1930. They were renting for \$15/month. It is a nice-looking veterinarian today and has been for a number of years. George was 30 and Velma 31 and George was earning the princely sum of \$950.

Having made it through the 1930's, the turbulent 1940's began. George fell into the age range to have to register for the WW2 Draft in 1940. They were still at the address above, but George had a new job at Eaton Canyon Rock and Gravel at, CA. That right under IH210 today. He was 5'-10 1/2"-160lbs-hazel eyes-brown hair-ruddy complexion. As we read above, he was medically disqualified from serving and he and Velma celebrated a little too much when the war ended and that celebration resulted in the arrival in 1946 of twins, George Elvin and John Marvin. (aka: the tumor). It is described above, but George's brother came up with the idea to build a trailer park and that is where we found Velma and 5 of her children, as daughter Maureen and her father were at his brother's place at the trailer park when the 1950 Census was taken. I'm assuming that the Navy Boy Trailer Court where Velma was must have been the duplex on the Naval Base mentioned in George's story above. He appears to have had his job at China Lake, while helping brother Marvin with the trailer park on the side. Ridgecrest is in Kern County north of LA and east of Bakersfield. Their oldest son Jack was doing construction and had resumed using his last name of Meyer. According to the narrative above, Jack had joined the Army in 1947 so I am not sure why he was at home in 1950. I will dig into that when I do the next generation. His brother James has not been found in the 1950 Census and we learned above that he had joined the Navy in 1949.

Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head of House	Race	Gender	Age	Birth Date	Marital Status	Birth Place	Citizenship	Hours Worked	Occupation	Industry
1950 Census	Navy Boy 1	Trailer 46			24			Ridgecrest, Kern, California				
Snider	Velma L	Head	White	Female	42	1908	Separated	New Mexico				
Meyer	Jack C	Son	White	Male	21	1929	Never Married	(California)		40	Construction Help	Contracting Co
Snider	Conral	Son	White	Male	15	1938	Never Married	(California)				
Snider	Velma Jean	Daughter	White	Female	13	1940	Never Married	(California)				
Snider	George E	Son	White	Male	4	1946	Never Married	(California)				
Snider	Johnny M	Son	White	Male	4	1946	Never Married	(California)				

A little digression to mention Velma's first husband and father of her first two sons. According to news articles that I found, they separated on 15 Sep 1931 and their divorce was finalized in Nov 1932. He registered for the WW2 Draft in Oct 1940 at which time he was unemployed and seemed to have been living with a sister at Twenty-Nine Palms, CA but apparently moved to Carson, WA. He was 32-6'-2"-195lbs-blue eyes-brown wavy hair-ruddy complexion. He enlisted in the US Marine Corp on 1 Sep 1943 and served until 8 Dec 1945. He married Josephine Dillingham in 1953 and died in 1966 in Washington. There is a bit of confusion on his parentage. His father is purported to be John Carl Meyer who died in 1948 and his mother was Nora Rakestraw Meyer who died in 1973, but in the 1940 Census, Cornelius was with his father who said that he was a widower and Nora was not to be found, but then in 1950, Cornelius was divorced and living with his widowed mother working as a logger in Skamania, Washington. This may be one of those cases where they divorced or separated before 1940 and her absence was explained by claiming to be a widower.

The remainder of George and Velma's lives are covered in a thorough manner above so I will not repeat their son's excellent biographies. I will cover their children in the next generation.

Children of Velma Louis Smith and her two husbands, Cornelius Meyer and George Snider.

139	Cornelius Carl Meyer	1929		Velma and Cornelius Child#1
140	James Melvin Meyer	1932	2016	Velma and Cornelius Child#2
141	Conrad Schneider	1933	2007	Velma and George Child#1
142	Maureen Snider	1938	2017	Velma and George Child#2
143	Velma Jean Snider	1936		Velma and George Child#3
144	Kathleen Snider	1939		Velma and George Child#4
145	John Marvin Snider	1946	1994	Velma and George Child#5 - Twin
146	George Elvin Snider	1946		Velma and George Child#6 - Twin

36. Dixie Virginia Smith 30 APR 1909 • New Mexico - 24 DEC 1986 • Inyo County, CA
 Earl R Brown 28 NOV 1909 • Pasadena, CA - 26 JUN 1968 • Riverside, CA
 Marriage: 1 Nov 1928 • Pasadena, CA

The final child born to Sam and Mary Smith was their daughter Dixie Virginia who arrive in New Mexico in 1909 as has been detailed earlier. She lived with her parents in New Mexico and Arizona and in 1928 she ended up in Pasadena, CA where she met and married Earl Brown. We had a brief peek at here when she and Earl were witnesses to her big brother, James Harvey Smith's wedding to his 2nd wife after his first wife died very young. They must have thought marriage was a good idea, because 6 months later, they tied the knot. Her wedding was witnessed by Earl's mother, Ida and her brother James Andy. Earl was 18 and Dixie was 19. A funny note is that Earl's mother had to give him permission to marry as he was considered to be a minor.

In the 1930 Census we find Earl and Dixie living at 176 South Sierra Bonita, Pasadena with Earl's widowed mother and their new daughter, Patricia who had arrived in Aug 1929. A little background on Earl. He was the youngest son of Charles and Ida Brown. He had an older sister who was born in California, and then twin brothers, Ray and Roy who were born in Oregon. By 1910 his parents were back in California where his father worked as a Teamster. His father was from California and his mother from Iowa and they married in CA in 1896. Unfortunately, he died in 1915 at the age of 44 leaving Ida with a 15-year-old daughter, 11-year-old twin boys and 5-year-old Earl. She was a seamstress and dressmaker and was supporting her family doing that work. Ida owned her house in 1930 and it was worth \$4000. It seems to have been bulldozed at some point to enable the construction of Pasadena City College's Robinson Stadium which was named for baseball great Jackie Robinson and his brother. Earl was a messenger boy for Western Union. I took a quick look at the neighbors on the census and it looks like a fairly nice place with quite a few teachers living nearby.

Surname	Given Name	Relation to Head of House	Home Owned or Rented	Home Value	Radio Set	Lives on Farm	Gender	Race	Age	Estimated Birth Year	Marital Status	Age at First Marriage	Attended School	Read and Write	Birthplace	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Occupation
1930 Census	176 So Sierra Bonita	Pasadena, Los Angeles, California																
Brown	Ida M	Head	Owned	4000	Yes	No	Female	White	58	1872	Widowed		No	Yes	Iowa	New York	Ohio	Dressmaker
Brown	Earl	Son					Male	White	20	1910	Married	19	No	Yes	California	United States	Iowa	Messenger Boy
Brown	Dickie	Daughter-in-law					Female	White	20	1910	Married	19	No	Yes	New Mexico	Texas	Texas	
Brown	Patricia	Granddaughter					Female	White	1	1929	Single		No		California	California	New Mexico	

In the 1930's the family grew again with the arrival of Earl Robert Brown in 1931 and Roy Arlen Brown in 1936. With so many twins in the Smith family and twins in Earl's family, I'm surprised that Earl and Dixie didn't have twins. Maybe the depression caused Ida to take a hit, or maybe Robinson Stadium was built, but 1940 found Earl and Dixie and their three children still living with his mother, but they had moved to 59 S. Allen which is not too far away from their old address. Ida owned it and it was worth \$1500. I did a search on the history of Robinson Stadium and it was built as a WPA Project during the 1930's. In 1940, we see that Earl was an apprentice plumber so perhaps he was involved in the construction. I was a bit surprised to see that Ida had a year of college. She was now 68 and as a single mother with 4 kids, I don't think she had a chance to have gone to school in her early days so maybe she took advantage of the nearby Pasadena Community College. Earl and Dixie had both gone through their junior years of high school and the two older kids were in elementary school.

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 1935	Occupation
1940 Census	59 S Allen Avenue	Pasadena, Los Angeles, CA	Owned		1500								
Brown	Ida M	Head	Female	White	68	1872	Widowed	No	College, 1st year	Iowa		Pasadena	
Brown	Earl R	Son	Male	White	30	1910	Married	No	High School, 3rd year	California		Pasadena	Apprentice Plumber
Brown	Dixie	Daughter-in-law	Female	White	30	1910	Married	No	High School, 3rd year	New Mexico		Pasadena	
Brown	Patricia	Granddaughter	Female	White	10	1930	Single	Yes	Elementary school, 4th grade	California		Pasadena	
Brown	Robert	Grandson	Male	White	8	1932	Single	Yes	Elementary school, 2nd grade	California		Pasadena	
Brown	Roy	Grandson	Male	White	3	1940	Single	No		California			

After the 1940 Census, things get a little confusing and I still have some searching to do. For some reason, Earl did not register for the WW2 Draft in 1940 as would have been expected for someone of his age, but he did register in Nov 1943 while living in the Panama Canal Zone. He was 33 and Dixie was still at 59 S. Allen in Pasadena with the children and perhaps she was still living with Ida who did not die until 1954. He worked for the Naval Fleet Commandant in an unknown role and I don't know if he was in the Navy of a civilian employee. He was 5'-11"-150lbs-blue eyes-brown hair-ruddy complexion. I have searched and searched for records or news articles about Earl to know avail. While searching though, I did come across multiple entries for Earl in Pasadena City Directories in the 1930's and 1950's, but nothing in the 1940's. The earliest was for 1930 which showed him to be working as a clerk and already living at 59 S Allen so they must have moved right after the census. In 1936 he was a chauffeur and 1937 he was a plumber.

In my frustration about finding much information about Earl, I decided to look into his siblings and this led to some insight. As I mentioned, he had an older sister and twin older brothers, Roy and Ray. I will do a little detour here to talk about them. His oldest sister, Alta married Julian Devermonde in 1919 who

was born in Russia and was in the Army when they married in 1919 so Alta appears with her mother and younger brother in the 1920 Census and Julian is at a military post. He then died in 1925. Six months after his death, she married Lyle Morehous. They had one son and for some reason in 1950, Earl and Dixie's son Earl Jr was living with them.

His brother Roy married Ruth McDunnah about 1944 who had been previously married to Paul Nolan and had a couple of children with him (Sheila and Karen) and then a son with Roy. Roy died in 1949, and in 1950, Earl appears with her in the Census working as a plumber and she has her daughter Karen and son Roy with her and they are in Covina CA which is a little east of Pasadena. Meanwhile, Dixie is up in

BROWN—Earl Robert Brown, formerly of Pasadena, passed away in Riverside, June 26, 1968. Born in Pasadena, and a life long resident of California, he is survived by his wife, Ruth Brown; sons, Earl R. Brown Jr., and Roy A. Brown; daughter, Mrs. Pat Arnell; brother, Ray G. Brown; sister, Alma Morehouse; and six grandchildren. Services, 2 p.m. Saturday, at the graveside, in Mountain View Cemetery, the Rev. Zenas D. Bancroft officiating. Ives & Warren Co., directors.

Kern CA with her oldest daughter Patrica and her new husband William Arnell and their new baby Christopher. My best interpretation of all of this is that Dixie went to be with her daughter as she had her first child, while Earl stayed behind and help his brother's sister following the loss of her husband.

While all of this was going on, his other brother Ray married Clara Atkinson in 1930. Clara was the daughter of a very prominent Presbyterian minister who performed their wedding and it was big news in the papers. I don't know if they spent time as missionaries, but 1935 found them in Shanghai, China and in 1936, they took a tour of the far east to include North China and Korea. They were back in Pasadena by 1940 where they started their family and then in 1940, they moved to the Panama Canal Zone. I can only think that Ray's presence there had something to do with Earl's presence there in 1943, but I haven't found anything conclusive to confirm this. In 1950, Ray was the manager of a plumbing company in West Covina and my suspicion is that Ray and Earl were in business together.

I finally found an obituary for Earl and it created some confusion as his wife is referred to as Ruth and I don't believe that this is Dixie. Is it possible that he married his brother's widow? They were together in the 1950 Census.

I will discuss the children in the next generation. I cannot find anything about Dixie after 1950 apart from her death notice in 1986 in Inyo California. Inyo is a small town in central California and is the location where over 400 movies were filmed. Just for fun, here is a link to the museum of western film history in Inyo County. I wonder if Dixie ever got to be an extra. As we progress in the family narrative, we had at least one western movie star that more than likely did some filming at this location. His name is Wes Hudman and we will get to his story in another family. <https://museumofwesternfilmhistory.org/>

Children of Dixie and Earl

147	Patricia Mae Brown	1929	1987	Dixie and Earl's Child#1
148	Earl Robert Brown Jr	1931	1978	Dixie and Earl's Child#2
149	Roy Arlen Brown	1936	1994	Dixie and Earl's Child#3

This completes this generation for Sam Oscar Smith. Errors and corrections to rbills_houston@yahoo.com
Updated 16 Feb 2025