

11. The children and grandchildren of Benjamin Benton Smith Sr and his two wives Lucretia Ann Gilliland and Mary Margaret Wilson

11. Benjamin Benton Smith Sr 11 SEP 1867 • Pleasanton, TX - 4 NOV 1939 • Silver City, Grant, NM
 Lucretia Ann Gilliland 31 OCT 1876 • Kimble County, TX - 11 FEB 1962 • Newberg, Yamhill, Oregon
 Marriage: 30 Mar 1892 • Dona Ana, New Mexico – Divorce 16 Apr 1909
 Mary Margaret Wilson 23 JAN 1872 • Bosque County, TX - 19 FEB 1939 • Silver City, NM



Photos of Benjamin, Lucretia, and Ben and Mary's gravestone borrowed from FamilySearch.

One of the final two children of Jesse and Elizabeth was Benjamin Benton, the twin brother of Jesse. We don't have birth certificates to know who came first, but they arrived in Pleasanton 12 years before the family's move north to the San Angelo area. I think I stated it wrong earlier, but it appears as though they moved to Runnels County in 1879 and then in 1880 at the time of the Census, they moved to nearby Tom Green County and bought a ranch. Not knowing where they would be when the Census counter arrived, they were actually counted in both places. I guess if you are a twin you need to be double counted.

75. Albert Lester Smith 24 MAY 1905 • Artesia, Eddy. NM - 5 APR 1985 • El Dorado County, CA
 Carol Anna Wheeler 4 APR 1907 • St. Louis, Minn - 24 SEP 1988 • Portland. OR
 Marriage: 1 Jan 1927 • Goldendale, Klickitat, WA



This is the only photo I can find of Albert. I have not found graves for him or his wife. This is from an old family photo on FamilySearch when he was at home with his parents Benjamin and Lucretia.

Albert was the 6th child born to Ben and Lucretia and the last of that marriage. I will forego the early days as it mirrors his siblings. I will jump to his marriage in 1927 to Carole Wheeler.

Albert was too young to have to have registered for the draft in WW1 so we don't have that key piece of information to place him anywhere before his marriage to Carola Anna wheeler on New Years Day 1927. From his marriage license we see that on that day in Klickitat County, Washington, based on a license obtained on 21 Dec 1926, Albert A. Smith and Carol A. Wheeler were united in marriage by Davis A. Storey, a clergyman from Goldendale, WA in the presence of Jean C. Gibson and Samuel J. Gibson who were Carol's mother and stepfather. We can see that Carol was from there while Albert was from King County which is where Seattle. I found this detailed description of the blessed event which contains some valuable information.

Child of Albert and Carol Wheeler Smith

258	John Paul Smith	1929	Unknown	Albert and Carol Child#1
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258. John Paul Smith 5 JAN 1929 • Corvallis, OR - Death Unknown

#1 Dora Dorothy Stuiwenga 26 DEC 1927 • Triplett, MO - 20 FEB 2018 • Dayton, OR

Marriage: 5 Apr 1959 – Portland, OR – Divorce 1963

#2 Bonnie Joy Webster 14 AUG 1937 • Ogden, UT - Living

Marriage: 14 Jan 1967 • Portland, OR

While I have not found death records for John, I have found a little bit of information which I'll share. He was born to Albert Smith and his first wife Carol Wheeler in Jan 1929 in Corvallis, OR. He appears in the 1930 Census where his father is incorrectly identified as having been born in Minnesota as was his mother. A news article from Bakersfield, CA mentioned that he spent the summer of 1937 with his grandparents in Arizona. The birthplace of his father was corrected in the 1940 Census which found them in Bakersfield, CA after having been in Douglas, AZ in 1935. His father was driving a truck for an oil company. In 1950, they were back in Washington County, OR (just west of Portland) where his parents were running a mink farm while John (or as he sometimes went J. Paul) was working as a logger and was 21. On 17 Jan 1947 when he was 18, he registered for the post war draft and was certainly eligible to have been selected to go to Korea, but I have no evidence of that happening. He lived with his parents in Buxton, OR which is a small-town NW of Portland. He was unemployed and his father was his point of contact. He was 5'-10"-170lbs-gray eyes-blond hair – light complexion.

The next potential article that I found about John may or may not be correct, but the names and ages seem to be fairly close. *McMINNVILLE, July 7, 1958 - As the result of an altercation with his 53-year-old father, a 29-year-old Portland man is held in Yamhill County jail. Bail was set at \$1000.*

John P. Smith is charged with assault and battery while unarmed but using force likely to produce great bodily harm.

Smith's father, Albert L. Smith, Newberg, was taken to Newberg Community hospital. Police said the elder Smith was badly bruised and cut on the face.

The ages and names match exactly and this is shortly before his father's divorce from his mother in Jan 1959 which suggests that things may not have been going smoothly in the family.

About a year later in Mar 1959, John married his first wife, Dora Stuiwenga in Portland. That is described here:

Miss Stuiwenga Becomes Bride - *The wedding of Miss Dorothy Stuiwenga, daughter of Mrs. Grace Stuiwenga of San Jose, Calif., to J. Paul Smith, son of Mrs. Carol Smith, was an event of April 5. The Rev. Dr. Robert K. Russell officiated at the home of the bride's uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. J. Paul Wheeler.*

The bride wore an ice blue dress with short veil and carried white roses. Miss Elsie Hodges was the bride's only attendant and Leonard V. (unreadable) was the groom's best man.

Dora was the daughter of William and Grace Oppen Stuiwenga who were from Illinois, but had worked their way to Oregon where her father was a dairy farmer, she had 3 older brothers and a younger sister. When they married, John was a logger and lived at 2126 SE Madison while Dora was a secretary and lived at 3929 SE Belmont. They divorced in 1963 at which time, John was working in Construction in Portland and lived at 3927 SE Belmont while Dora was working for the county and lived at 1631 NW Everett. Dora had filed charging cruelty and there were no children involved. Judging from the similarities of the marriage and divorce addresses, it looks like John may have stayed at the same place and Dora moved out. Interestingly on the marriage record, Dora gives her birth year as 1932 instead of 1927 while on the divorce record it is correct while John's is 1928 instead of 1929. Did she misrepresent the fact that she was older than John?

Following their divorce, Dora married Clayton Green and they seem to have lived out their lives together with Dora dying in Oregon in 2018. Meanwhile, John married a 2nd time in Portland to Bonnie Joy

Webster who was born in Ogden, UT on 14 Aug 1937 and a student in Portland. As I began researching her, her parents were reported to be Jack D. Webster and Lila Smith, but as I dug deeper, I discovered that her mother was Lila Smith the 2nd of five children born to Newell and Natilla Comish Smith in Utah, and she had married Frank Savage in Utah in 1936 and Bonnie was born shortly thereafter. She then had a younger brother Jack L. Webster born in March 1942, but then Lila married Jackson Webster in May 1942, so Jack's father is in doubt. In 1962, Bonnie's mother died under mysterious circumstances.

(Lila Webster, 46, was found dead Sunday in the bathtub in her apartment at 1416 Vandercook Way. Glenn York, Cowlitz County coroner, said an autopsy will be performed today.

York said the woman was found face down in a bathtub of water about 3:15 p.m. by a friend and his daughter, both from Portland. Their call was answered by Bill Williams, Cowlitz County sheriff's deputy, who called York to the scene. The Steele Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.)

Seaview. Mrs. Webster

Webster-Mrs. Lila Marie, 45, of 1416 Vandercook Way, Longview, died Sept. 23 at home. Born Sept. 22, 1917 in Logan, Utah, she moved to Longview in March from Seaview. She was a member of the Latter-day Saints Church.

Surviving are a daughter, Bonnie Webster of Portland; a son, Jack of Helena, Mont.; her father, Newel Smith of Salt Lake City, Utah; two sisters, Mrs. Lavar Allen of Salt Lake City and Mrs. Nettie Branden of Junction City, Kan.; and two brothers, Dale Smith and Wayne Smith of Bountiful, Utah.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday at the Steele Chapel with Bishop W. Lee Robinson officiating. Interment will be at Longview Memorial Park.

The Steele Funeral Home is in charge.

She seems to have been separated from her 2nd husband, and Bonnie was in Portland in 1962.

Anyway, when Jack and Bonnie married in 1967, he was working as a laborer and living at 1037 NW 20th while Bonnie lived 107 SW Arthur and was a student. I'm not sure what she had been doing earlier, but in 1967, she was 29 and that seems a little old to be a student.

At this point my search grinds to a halt. I tried using the residence function which locates people by birthday and the only strong hit I encountered was for a Bonnie Joy Webster with the correct birthday living in Hawaii between Oct 1999 and Jan 2004, but I could not find any news articles about either her or John. There are never any indications of children.

This was a frustrating episode. Hope you had a good life John wherever you are.

I look forward to hearing from you at rbills_houston.com. Any additions, feedback, corrections would be appreciated. Rich