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### The Family Story of Alissa Duncan

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# **The Family History of**

**Alissa A. Duncan**

**24 April 2016**

Alissa Anne Duncan authored this family history as part of the course requirements for HIST 550/700 Your Family in History offered online in Spring 2016 and was submitted to the Pittsburgh State University Digital Commons. Please contact the author directly with any questions or comments: [mutemaid@hotmail.com](mailto:mutemaid@hotmail.com)

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**List of Direct Line Family Members**

#### Generation One

- A1. Alissa Anne Duncan (1978- )
- A2. Johnnie Cooper Parker (1976- )

#### Generation Two

- Ala. Patricia Margaret Drury Duncan (1955- )
- Alb. Terry Ellsworth Duncan (1953- )

#### Generation Three

- Ala1. Anne Jones Drury (1933-2013)
- Ala2. Peter Francis Drury (1932- )
- Alb1. Cora Alice Young Duncan (1918-2005)
- Alb2. Dale Leroy Duncan (1915-1999)

#### Generation Four

- Ala1a. Margaret McIntrye Jones (1912-unk)
- Ala1b. Frances Jones (1911-unk)
- Ala2a. Violet Cooper Drury (1899-unk)
- Ala2b. Peter Francis Drury (1897-unk)
- Alb1a. Cora Alice Hardinger Young (1895-1963)
- Alb1b. Fred Leroy Young (1894-1969)
- Alb2a. Lettie Ellen Speer Duncan (1885-1956)
- Alb2b. Edward Ellsworth Duncan (1881-1948)

## Generation Five

A1a1a1. Elizabeth Regina Lifford McIntyre (1876-unk)  
A1a1a2. Harry Melville McIntire (1874-1912)

A1a1b1. Anne Marshall Jones (dates unk)  
A1a1b2. George Jones (dates unk)

A1a2a1. Ann Morley Cooper(dates unk)  
A1a2a2. Henry Cooper (dates unk)

A1a2b1. Mary Agnes Connelly Drury (1869-1941)  
A1a2b2. Patrick J. Drury (1871-1950)

A1b1a1. Alice Elizabeth Hermance Hardinger (1860-1940)  
A1b1a2. Joseph Benson Hardinger (1857-1930)

A1b1b1. Cora Bell Riddle Young (1868-1950)  
A1b1b2. James William Young (1867-1945)

A1b2a1. Mary Hannah Kelly Speer(1864-1939)  
A1b2a2. John Wesley Speer (1856-1931)

A1b2b1. Nancy Jane Woodside Duncan (1853-1905)  
A1b2b2. Elias Duncan (1841-1929)

The Bromwell Connection: Extra Story

## GENERATION ONE

Alissa Anne Duncan (1978- ), was born at St. Francis Hospital in Manhattan, Kansas, on a warm fall day in 1978 to Terry Ellsworth Duncan (1953- ) and Patricia Margaret Drury Duncan (1955- ).

Alissa was three weeks early for her big day. Patricia had gone in for a scheduled doctor's appointment, only to feel the beginnings of labor. Having had two children prior, Patricia knew what early labor signs consisted of and, after going a few rounds of trying to convince the secretary of this, was finally taken to the hospital for delivery. The delivery doctor, Rex Fischer, was called in from a golf game at Stagg Hill for the actual delivery. It is stated that Dr. Fischer was almost too late for Alissa's arrival.

While Alissa has no memories of the first three years of her life, it has been said that her family moved around to different places within Kansas. Wichita, Dodge City, and Cimarron were a few of those places. Alissa's first memories, though scattered, begin to take shape when her family moved to Cimarron when she was 3 years old. Cimarron is a very small town, approximately 1,400 people in the 1980s, in the Southwest portion of Kansas<sup>1</sup>. Alissa's family lived in a rented farm house south of the town. Some of the memories Alissa recalls during her family's two year stay in the town are small and somewhat insignificant, such as playing in the fields with her brother Dennis Michael Duncan (1973 - ) and Amy Leigh Duncan (1975 - ), getting chicken pox, and playing with the family cat, Speckles. Other memories are still vivid in her mind years later.

The first memory that is ingrained in Alissa's memory is the first tornado she ever saw. In June of 1982, Alissa, her mom, brother, and sister were getting an afternoon treat at the local Blue Jay restaurant drive-through. After receiving their food and drink, Alissa's mom turned south on Highway 23 toward home when the tornado sirens went off. All of the occupants in the car were confused due to the fact it was sunny without too many clouds in the sky; however, Alissa's mom explained that it was a strange time for a tornado drill. As they continued south toward home, Alissa noticed that her mom

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<sup>1</sup> "Cimarron, KS," Wikipedia, accessed April 18, 2016, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cimarron,\\_Kansas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cimarron,_Kansas).

continued to look into her rearview mirror and her face grew more and more nervous. When Alissa attempted to turn around to look out the back window, her mom told her to keep her face turned forward. Of course, when a 3 year old is told to do something, most of the time they will do the opposite. Alissa decided to turn around in her seat; she saw one of the most terrifying sights of her life. Even though it was north of town and many miles away, Alissa saw a dark mass, which was funnel shaped, taking up most of the back window surface. Quickly turning around, Alissa began to cry and remembers her brother placing his arm around her to comfort her.

Before she knew what was happening, Alissa's mother stopped on the side of the road, got out and opened up the two back car doors. Patricia told her children to get out of the car and walk to the lowest part of the ditch to lie down. Alissa was frozen in place; she did not move until her mother forcibly removed her from the car and carried her to the ditch. Within a few seconds, Patricia changed her mind and told her children to get back into the car; she felt that the tornado was far enough away and that they would try to make it home before the tornado came closer. Again, Alissa was the only child who refused to move from her place, now in the ditch, and her mother had to grab her and carry her back to the car.

The rest of the ride home was a blur. The only thing Alissa remembered was being pulled out of the car one more time and taken to the outside storm cellar her parents had forbid their children to go in to while playing. By the time the tornado had reached the vicinity of the rented farm house they lived in, the tornado had begun to "rope-out". Patricia decided it was safe enough for her to leave the storm shelter to take a few photographs of the tornado, which was less than a half a mile away. Even though this event was incredibly scary for Alissa, it did spark an interest in tornados that has become a hobby for her. While she is not a tornado hunter/chaser, she has taken classes on cloud and storm forming and is an avid watcher of the Weather Channel during storm season.

[A portion of story omitted for privacy reasons. The story ended with Alissa's family moving from Cimarron to Manhattan, KS.]

In the basement of her grandparents, Alissa celebrated two birthdays, her fourth and fifth. Alissa experienced many fond memories of this time; however, could see the tension building between her mother and father. A lot of memories are framed around spending time with her brother and sister. Even though there was a decent difference in age, and her brother and sister would sometimes leave her out of games on purpose, Alissa enjoyed climbing trees and catching lighting bugs in the field of her grandparents' house with them. Alissa's parents tried to make the most of their limited income and resources to provide for their family. For Halloween in 1984, instead of purchasing costumes for the kids, Patricia and Terry made their costumes out of cardboard, paint, and electrical tape. The outcome was a bowling ball for Dennis and two bowling pins for Amy and Alissa. It was a creative idea and received many compliments. Alissa's fifth birthday was the most memorable and most positive birthday she can remember from her childhood. Alissa vividly remembers the multi-colored polka dotted dress she wore, the confetti covered strawberry birthday cake her grandma made, her first red tri-cycle, and her first Pound Puppy which is a stuffed animal dog that Alissa has kept into her adulthood and would spawn her first collection.

Sometime after her fifth birthday in 1983 or 1984, her family moved south of Manhattan, into a mobile home division. It was difficult to leave the security and closeness to grandparents; however, it was to be a positive turning point for the family. Not a lot is remembered from this time period but the memories recalled from this period are bittersweet. While there are good memories, such as learning to play Pong on Atari, playing hide and seek with siblings, and creating "interviews" with rock stars on audiotape, this time period was marked as the end of the Duncan family. It is while living in this place, Terry and Patricia decided it was best to end their marriage.

There was definitely uncertainty and anger shown in Alissa and her siblings due to the impending divorce. Even though Alissa does not remember this, her sister vividly remembers Alissa and Dennis blaming Amy on the separation of their parents. Alissa and Dennis must have grasped onto straws to explain and blame someone for a long-coming conclusion that was beyond their control. While their parents kept most of the divorce drama separate from the children, a few decisions were made to appease

families on both sides which would have an impact on their children's lives. One such decision would be the promise that each side, both Mom and Dad, would not take the children to church. Being that Patricia's side of the family were devout Catholics and Terry's side of the family were Christian, neither side wanted the children to be influenced by a different religion. Therefore, it was placed in the divorce agreement that neither side would take the children to church without written permission from the other. Being that neither parent was all that religious but their own parents were, this was not a big problem. In addition, Patricia and Terry would limit conversations with each other; therefore, a discussion of religion was very low on their radar.

After the separation and about the time that Alissa was in 1<sup>st</sup> grade, a break happened in the family that, in Alissa's opinion, would have a long range impact on the siblings of the family. Patricia and Terry agreed that it would be best if the girls, Alissa and Amy, would live with their mother. This way, Dennis would live with their father. At first both decided to stay close to Manhattan due to the fact that both were attending Kansas State University. Both Patricia and Terry decided to rent apartments at Jardine Apartments, which was a student housing development in Manhattan. Patricia rented a one bedroom apartment for herself and two girls. Terry rented a one bedroom apartment for himself and Dennis. The apartment was very small, approximately 800 feet, with a living room/kitchen, one bedroom, and a small bathroom. It had tiled concrete floors and two high windows. Amy and Alissa were given the bedroom to sleep in, while Patricia slept on a flip chair, a ground chair that can flip into a cushion mattress in the living room. The apartment also had cockroach infestation issues.

While it was difficult, the children would go spend every other weekend with the other parent. While the housing development was somewhat small in adult terms, the walk across the development was more than a 10 minute walk for a six year old child. In addition, many times that Amy and Alissa would ride their bikes unannounced to Building X from Building F, their father and brother would not be there. During the summer of 1986, Terry was admitted into Michigan State University for his Master's Degree. Therefore, he and Dennis move before the start of term. This became a difficult time for both Amy and



Alissa because this would be the first time they were truly separated from their father and brother. From 1986 on, Amy and Alissa would only see their father and brother only once every year or two.

Also at this time, Patricia seemed to have found her youth again. It is important to note that Patricia and Terry were very young parents, she was eighteen years old and he was twenty years old when they had their first child. They were twenty-three years old and twenty-five years old (both without college educations) when they had their last child. They had dated while in high school when Patricia's father, Peter Drury (1938 - ), was stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas for the Army. He retired while at Fort Riley and decided to move the family back to his hometown, Jamestown, RI, in December of 1972. It was after the move that Patricia realized she was pregnant. Due to their strict beliefs and religious views, Patricia's parents contacted Terry's parents to discuss marriage. Terry and Patricia were married in February of 1973, six months before Dennis was born.

[Portions omitted due to privacy for individuals involved.]

In May of 1987, Patricia graduated from college with her Bachelors in Elementary Education. Due to graduation and the fact that the apartment they resided in was for students only, it was necessary for Patricia and her daughters to move. Patricia was able to receive a job in Copeland, KS, which was a very small town in southwest Kansas with approximately 300 people<sup>2</sup>. She moved her family to Copeland during July and rented a one bedroom farm house on the outskirts of town. Patricia was to teach fifth grade; Amy was to be in sixth grade and Alissa in third grade. While this was a fairly stable time during Alissa's childhood, it was not marked smoothly all of the time.

[Portion omitted for privacy of individuals.]

In 1989, the three would move to Liberal in southwest Kansas. A year later, they would move to Jamestown, RI. However, they moved back to Liberal in 1991. Alissa would find herself staying in Liberal, KS, until she graduated from high school in 1997. Even though they stayed in a town for more than a year, the three women would move to a new apartment almost every year. Amy graduated from

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<sup>2</sup> "Copeland, KS," Wikipedia, accessed April 19, 2016, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copeland,\\_Kansas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copeland,_Kansas).

high school in 1994 and moved to Manhattan to attend Kansas State University. After Alissa graduated in 1997, she moved to Manhattan to attend the college. When she arrived in Manhattan, Alissa realized how different the town had become from her memory in 1987.

In Figure 7.3 "Distribution of Population Across Types of Places," Fischer and Hout, in their book *Century of Difference: How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years*, show what IPUMS and Daniel Bogue claim to be the movement of the population from rural areas to urban areas. According to the chart, in 1900 close to 70% of Americans lived in the countryside or towns, while close to 30% lived in Metro areas (whether they be small Metro suburbs and city centers or large Metro suburbs and city centers). In 2000, the countryside and towns only made up approximately 25% of the population, while small and large metropolitan areas (both peripheral and center) made up 75%. This chart shows a complete flip-flop of rural and urban areas over the last 100 years<sup>3</sup>.

Alissa Duncan grew up mostly in towns (both small and medium) during her early life. She was born in Manhattan, KS, which was a town of approximately 30,000 people in 1978<sup>4</sup>. Alissa's family moved to many places during her younger years, including and all in Kansas: Wichita, Dodge City, Cimarron, Copeland, Liberal, and Manhattan. Only one of these places would be considered a city, which was Wichita. Out of all the towns listed above, Manhattan was the beacon for the Duncan family, as they found themselves moving back there many times during Alissa's childhood. In addition, most of extended Duncan family lived or moved back to Manhattan during the 1980s and 1990s. Alissa would move back to this area permanently in 1997, first to attend Kansas State University and then to marry and raise two girls in a neighboring town.

Alissa has seen Manhattan transform from a small/medium town to a solidly medium sized town, as it is now twice as big as it was in 1978. When Alissa moved back to Manhattan, she was surprised and a little saddened to see that the big field she and her siblings would play in during trips to Grandma and

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<sup>3</sup> Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference: How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 173.

<sup>4</sup> "Manhattan, KS," Wikipedia, accessed April 19, 2016, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manhattan,\\_Kansas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manhattan,_Kansas).

Granddad Duncan's house was no longer there. In its place was a mosque. The fields below and across the street, which once held a view to the elementary school that Alissa attended in first and second grade, was now obscured by new apartment complexes. Even though these new changes were surprising to Alissa, she was more surprised to hear about the changes her grandparents had observed since they built their house in Manhattan during the 1950s. When Dale and Alice Duncan built their first home on Hylton Heights, it was not even in the town of Manhattan. It was considered to be "in the country". Nestled on top of a cliff west of the town, their road, which was then dirt, was the last road one could travel before having to veer back east toward the town. Nothing lay further west of their house. If you were to visit their house today, you would not believe this story. The old Duncan abode now is considered to be close to what is now the center of Manhattan, with development in every direction. One must use their imagination to picture the sunsets or gathering thunderstorm clouds over grassland, something Dale and Alice Duncan must have viewed in the 1950s.

It is in Manhattan, that Alissa would finally "find" her strength and direction in life. After enduring and escaping an abusive relationship with a high school boyfriend and choosing one major after another; Alissa found her home was in the theatre realm. However she realized that performance was not her calling but a fairly new study called drama therapy. In this discipline, Alissa found that she could use her love of theatre with her interest in family studies and psychology. It is stated that many people who enter these fields have faced some sort of trauma or past family conflict. Alissa would fit into this mold. The populations she chose to work with were adolescents and women.

While her life was finally coming together, Alissa also met a young man named Johnnie through one of her cousins. The two hit it off immediately, though they did not begin dating until about a year and a half after meeting. They began dating in May of 2001 and had agreed to only date through the summer because both wanted to concentrate on their studies and Alissa planned on moving to San Francisco in 2002 to attend a drama therapy school. However, as most stories go, life had different plans for Alissa. She found herself still dating Johnnie when August came around and they remained together throughout the year. In September of 2001, the attack on the World Trade Center and America would

force the two to test their devotion to each other. Johnnie was a reservist and, in 2003, was deployed overseas to aid in what would become one of the longest wars in American history. Before finding out he would be deployed, Johnnie proposed to Alissa and they planned to marry after she graduated with her master's degree in June of 2004. Johnnie was deployed for 15 months and returned home two months before their wedding date.

Alissa and Johnnie were married on June 19, 2004. After a honeymoon in Mexico, they returned to their lives with Alissa working as an activities director at a geriatric psych unit and Johnnie as a student at Kansas State University and Manhattan Technical College. In 2006, Alissa would take a teaching position at Barton Community College on Fort Riley. She would teach classes such as public speaking, nonverbal communication, creative drama, and a women's history class. In 2007, Johnnie was again deployed to Qatar. While this deployment was shorter than the first, it still was a difficult time for them. Johnnie returned in August of 2008 and the two decided they were ready to settle down and purchase a house and begin having children. The purchasing of the house was the easy part. After two years of trying to have a child, Alissa and Johnnie found out that they would not be able to have children without a little helping hand. While they were disheartened by this information, they decided to do what they could to have children. Luck was on their side, the fertility process worked on the first try and in 2011 they had their first child. In 2014, they would have their second. Unfortunately, from 2011 to 2016, the family would find themselves facing two more deployments. Johnnie was deployed in June of 2012 and 2015; therefore, Johnnie found himself missing both of his children's first birthdays.

In May of 2016, Johnnie retired from the military; therefore, no further deployments will be faced by the family. They could now look into the future knowing that they would be able to move forward together. While Alissa has faced many hardships in her life and her trust of others had been tested, she found herself a lucky individual. She took a job she enjoyed and a family that she loved. There would still be many stressors in her life; however, she found the strength to face what life would throw her way.

## GENERATION TWO

**A1a. Patricia Margaret Drury Duncan (1955- )**

**A1b. Terry Ellsworth Duncan (1953- )**

**Patricia Margaret Drury** was born on January 26, 1955, on an army base in Germany. She was the second child to Peter F. Drury (1932- ) and Anne Jones Drury (1933-2013). She has one older sister, Kathy (dates unk), and two younger siblings, Eileen (dates unk) and Michael (dates unk). While not much is known about her early life by the author, it is known that the family moved around to different army bases due to her father's position in intelligence within the Army. Peter Drury was deployed during the Korean and Vietnam Wars; this was during Patricia's childhood. In the early 1970s, Patricia's family moved to Manhattan, KS, because her father had been stationed at Fort Riley. Patricia attended Manhattan High School and worked at a local burger shop, Drummer Boy. This was where she met Terry Ellsworth Duncan (1953- ). Terry had recently graduated from high school and was attending Kansas State University and planned to join the Army Reserves. The two dated for around a year and a half before the Drury family planned to move back to the east coast.

After leaving Kansas, Patricia found out that she was pregnant. Due to the fact her parents were very religious; Patricia and Terry found themselves being married in February of 1973, which was six months before their child was to be born. Patricia moved back to Manhattan. Their son, Dennis was born in the fall of 1973. As time continued, Patricia and Terry would have two more children, Amy, in 1975, and Alissa, in 1978. The family would remain together until 1985, when Patricia and Terry decided to divorce.

After the divorce, Patricia continued to work toward her education goal and, in 1987, graduated from Kansas State University in elementary education. Since this time, Patricia has taught in a variety of schools in Kansas. She is now located in southwest Kansas and is still a teacher.

**Terry Ellsworth Duncan** was born on January 1, 1953, in Manhattan. He was the first child born in that year, awarding the family with many local company gifts. He was the fourth child born to

Alice Young Duncan (1918-2005) and Dale Leroy Duncan (1915-1999). He has three older brothers, Patrick (1941- ), Michael (1944- ), and Timothy (1948- ). Terry spent his entire childhood in Manhattan, KS, and attended Kansas State University. After graduating from high school, he began working at a local burger joint called Drummer Boy and decided to join the Army Reserves.

Unfortunately, due to medical issues, Terry was released from the Reserves. It was discovered that he had Crohn's Disease and his prognosis was not good. Throughout his childhood, he had suffered from digestive issues and they only became worse as he aged.

In 1972, Terry met Patricia Margaret Drury at Drummer Boy and they began dating. In early 1973, Patricia's family moved away from Manhattan and the two decided to end their courtship. However, a few months later, Terry received notice that he was going to be a father and found himself being reunited with Patricia in marriage. He welcomed a baby boy named Dennis in the fall of 1973. A few years later the family added two girls, Amy, in 1975, and Alissa, in 1978. While Terry and Patricia attempted to create a family with what fate had handed them; they were both unhappy. By 1985, Terry and Patricia decided to end their marriage. The two attempted to stay close in proximity for the children; however, life had different plans. In 1986, Terry was accepted to Michigan State University to work under his mentor from Kansas State University. He moved to Michigan with his son Dennis while his daughters, Amy and Alissa, stayed with their mother. After graduating with his masters from MSU, he was accepted into the PhD program in statistics from University of Oregon. As a part of his program, he became GTA in physical education, which was a part of his lower college degrees.

During his time at U of O, Terry met Susan Wraith, a master's level student in physical education and statistics. After dating for a few years, the two decided to marry. They married in 1991 and began not only a personal life but a professional life together. They both received jobs at the Oregon Research Institute as research scientists. Terry and Sue worked on many grants together concerning substance abuse and behavioral issues in adolescents. In 1999, they published a book titled *An Introduction to*

*Latent Variable Growth Curve Modeling*, which is still utilized in upper level statistics courses<sup>5</sup>. Terry continued to work at the Oregon Research Institute until around 2010 when he had to step down due to medical issues associated with Crohn's Disease.

Also, in 2002, the two welcomed a boy named Bryan into their family. The three continue to live in Oregon. While Terry does not work too much outside of the home due to his health, he still consults on grants and research. Sue still works as a researcher; however, due to a decrease in the funding of research grants is looking for other work options.

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<sup>5</sup> Terry E. Duncan, Susan C. Duncan, and Lisa A. Strycker, *An Introduction to Latent Variable Growth Curve Modeling* (Lawrence Erlbaum Assoc., New Jersey, 2006), accessed April 19, 2016, [https://books.google.com/books/about/An\\_Introduction\\_to\\_Latent\\_Variable\\_Growth.html?id=c-CC5ZFGGrRsC](https://books.google.com/books/about/An_Introduction_to_Latent_Variable_Growth.html?id=c-CC5ZFGGrRsC).

### GENERATION THREE

**A1a1. Anne Jones Drury (1933-2013)**

**A1a2. Peter Francis Drury (1932- )**

**A1b1. Cora Alice Young Duncan (1918-2005)**

**A1b2. Dale Leroy Duncan (1915-1999)**

**Anne Jones Drury**, who is Alissa Duncan's maternal grandmother, was born on November 29, 1933, in Boston, Massachusetts. She is the daughter of Margaret McIntyre Jones (1912- unk) and Frances Jones (1911-unk). Not much is known by the author of Anne's early life. She married Peter Francis Drury (1932- ) when she was 19 years old. She was a housewife throughout her life and was the mother to four children, Kathleen (dates unk), Patricia (1955- ), Eileen (dates unk), and Michael (dates unk). She volunteered at the bases her husband was stationed at; he was a 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant in the Army, and was an active member in the Catholic Church<sup>6</sup>.

**Peter Francis Drury Jr.**, who is the maternal grandfather of Alissa Duncan, was born on October 30, 1932, in Jamestown, Rhode Island. He was the son of Violet Cooper Drury (1899-unk) and Peter Francis Drury (1897-unk). Not much is known by the author of Peter's early life except that Peter grew up in Jamestown, RI, and graduated from Providence College in 1954 in pre-law. He met and married Anne Jones in 1952. He joined the Army in the mid-1950s and was a Vietnam veteran. In the early 1970s, he was stationed at Fort Riley, KS. While there he attended Kansas State University where he received a master's degree in internal affairs. In 1973, he was offered the position at La Salle University as a professor in military science and tactics<sup>7</sup>. The author is not certain how long he taught at this college in Pennsylvania.

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<sup>6</sup> "Anne E. Drury Obituary," Quinn Funeral Homes, accessed April 19, 2016, <http://www.thequinnfuneralhome.com/obituary/Anne-E.-Drury/Jamestown-RI/1327275>.

<sup>7</sup> Robert S. Lyons, "La Salle College News Bureau: News Release October 18, 1973," *La Salle College Digital Commons*, accessed April 19, 2016, [http://digitalcommons.lasalle.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1011&context=press\\_releases](http://digitalcommons.lasalle.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1011&context=press_releases).



He retired sometime in the late 1970s or early 1980s and bought his childhood home in Jamestown, RI. He remains an active Boston Red Sox baseball fan and plays poker on Thursday nights. A few years ago, he lost his wife, Anne, at the end of 2013, but is still surrounded by three of his children who live in or around Jamestown.

**Cora Alice Young Duncan**, the paternal grandmother of Alissa Duncan, was born on May 14, 1918, on her family's farm in Grand River Bottom in Decatur County, Iowa<sup>8</sup>. She was the first child born to Fred Leroy Young (1894–1969) and Cora Alice Hardinger (1895 –1963). She was named after both grandmothers, Cora Riddle Young (1868–1950) and Alice Hermance Hardinger (1860-1940); it just so happens to be her mother's first and middle name as well. Cora Alice's family would always call her Alice and she would stick with that name for her entire life. Closer to the end of her life, Cora Alice or Alice would tell people to not call her by Cora at all.

In early 1919, Alice's family moved from Iowa to Kansas in order for Fred Young to help on his cousin's farm in Norton County. Fred had heard good stories about possibilities of farming in Northwest Kansas and wanted to build a life for himself and his family. After arriving, the family bought land from Fred's family and they began working the land and building their house. In the meantime, the family lived in a sod house that Alice coined "The Old Soddie"<sup>9</sup>. It was while living in this sod house that Alice's sister, Pauline Marie (1919-unknown) was born.

It is thought that after the birth of Pauline, Alice's mother began showing signs of mental and physical deterioration. While the details are not well documented orally or in writing, the author's aunt, Janet Duncan, has written in her unpublished book about Dale and Alice Duncan that it may have been around 1920 when Cora Alice Hardinger began worrying her husband with her health. He worried so much for his wife that he moved the family back to Iowa in 1922 in order to stay closer to his wife's

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<sup>8</sup> "Iowa, County Births, 1880-1935", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:V46V-TX4> : accessed 13 April 2016), Cora Alice Young, 1918.

<sup>9</sup> Janet Duncan, face to face interview with author, February 6, 2016.

family<sup>10</sup>. During their two year stint in Iowa, Cora, Alice, and Pauline would stay at Cora's family house while Fred tended to the farm and attended the Weltmer Institute of Suggestive Therapeutics. According to Janet Duncan, Fred Young was said to have a touch that would cure people. It was thought by Alice's sister, Pauline, and her children that Fred's hands were "electric"<sup>11</sup>. Therefore, he was accepted into the Weltmer Institute where students learned how to heal people via telepathy and mental power or "magnetic massage". Due the fact that Fred seemed to have more electricity running through his body than the average person, he excelled in his studies and graduated with honors from the Institution<sup>12</sup>. A few of Alice's family members remember watching Fred rub his hands together and placing them on a person's body to ease their pain. After graduation, Fred opened up a practice south of the Iowa border, because the magnetic massage practice was illegal in Iowa. This practice did not last long due to the fact Fred realized the instability of the work, as well as it being scandalous. In addition, he needed more routine for his family. The Young family would stay in Iowa until mid-1924 and then they moved back to Kansas. It is possible that Fred felt Cora had recovered from her bout of whatever mental and physical ailments she had suffered from a few years before. She was also pregnant with their third child.

During the winter of 1924, Alice and her family welcomed a new baby boy to the family, Ralph Leroy Young (1924-1955).

[Information omitted for privacy of individuals.]

Unfortunately, the Dust Bowl was beginning to ramp up and only became worse as the 1930s wore on. Alice and Pauline took on their mother's role to tend to the house and younger brother while Fred worked in the fields and attempted to salvage their crops. While this would be stressful enough for seventeen and sixteen year old children, the environmental and economic hardships would make times harder. Alice would tell stories to her grandchildren about waking up with dirt all over the house, black clouds rolling in on a windy day, and having to reuse items over and over again until they were useless.

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<sup>10</sup> Janet Duncan, "Alice Bio to Tragedy Chapter" (Unpublished Book, Manhattan, KS, 2014), 6.

<sup>11</sup> Janet Duncan, face to face interview with author, February 6, 2016.

<sup>12</sup> Alice Duncan, "My Young Family: Quakers in Indiana" (Unpublished Book, Manhattan, KS, 1973), 10.

Even in Alice's later years, she would reuse bags, save left overs to make a hodge podge stew on Sundays, and would wear clothes until they had holes that could not be mended.

Somewhere around 1935, Fred hired a young woman named Isma Marsh to help around the family farm. Isma, who was about 22 years old, lived on a nearby farm with her family. She became an asset to the Young family. In 1936, Fred decided he had enough of farming in Kansas and packed up his family once more to move back to Iowa, this time for good. However, two big changes made this move notable. First, Fred asked Isma to accompany them to Iowa. Due to the fact it would have been improper to take an unmarried woman with him, Fred married Isma before they took the journey. Second, young Alice, who was 18 years old, decided she was not going to go with the family back to Iowa.

[Information omitted to protect privacy.]

To be able to stay in Kansas after her family left, Alice lived with an uncle and helped around his house until she received her first teaching job in 1938 in Dellvale, KS. Although she had no formal education, Alice taught 8<sup>th</sup> grade in a one room school house. Alice was said to have loved teaching, she even kept and let her grandchildren play with a few of the books she had used to teach her pupils.

Her decisions to stay in Kansas and teach school would change Alice's life forever and for the better. Close to the end of the 1938-39 school year, Alice was sent to Lenora, KS, for a teacher refresher seminar on May 14, 1939. This date is important as it was Alice's 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. Unbeknownst to Alice, there was a teacher/wrestling coach at this school with whom she had caught the eye of. This teacher/coach's students realized his interest and dared him to ask out the unnamed woman. He took the dare willingly and had his students bring the young woman to his classroom. He asked Alice to accompany him to the graduation ceremony that evening and she accepted. The teacher who turned a dare into a date was a man named Dale Leroy Duncan.

After this night, the pair dated from afar. First the distance was only twenty miles away; however, in the fall of 1939, Dale took a new teaching position in Eskridge, KS, which made their short distance relationship into a long distance relationship, four and a half hours to be exact. Their courtship was mostly via letters. In one letter, Dale proposed to Alice and she readily accepted. The two were

married on November 4, 1939, less than six months after meeting. After the wedding, the two had to return to their jobs and the distance that separated them. This separation did not last long because by the end of the semester in December, Alice decided to quit her position and she moved to Eskridge to be with her husband<sup>13</sup>.

The newlyweds did not stay in Eskridge long. In the fall of 1940, Dale took a teaching and coaching position in Oberlin, Kansas, where he taught for three years. It was also in Oberlin that they had their first son, Patrick. In 1943, the trio moved to Manhattan, KS, because Dale had accepted a physical education instructor position at Kansas State College. The move to Manhattan would be the last major move the Duncan family would make. They would move to a few rented houses in the town before finally building their family home on the outskirts of Manhattan in the early 1950s. It was this house that they would call home for the rest of their lives.

After a difficult beginning of life, Alice had finally found a brighter path in young adulthood. Alice and Dale spent the rest of their lives devoted to each other, their four sons, Patrick, Michael, Timothy, and Terry, and their numerous grandchildren. Even though there were times when they were apart, most notably during World War II, Alice and Dale's love remained strong. Only death could physically separate them. Dale passed away on August 25, 1999, due to heart complications<sup>14</sup>. Alice would follow on December 15, 2005, after long battle with Alzheimer's disease<sup>15</sup>. No matter what the ending held for these two, their perseverance through adversity and their love for family and each other is a story worth sharing.

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<sup>13</sup> "United States Census, 1940," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VR2J-CYV> : accessed 14 April 2016), Alice Duncan in household of Dale Duncan, Eskridge, Wilmington Township, Wabaunsee, Kansas, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 99-20, sheet 2A, family 30, NARA digital publication T627 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2012), roll 1264.

<sup>14</sup> "Find A Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVKD-SRQZ> : accessed 14 April 2016), Dale L. Duncan, 1999; Burial, Manhattan, Riley, Kansas, United States of America, Sunrise Cemetery; citing record ID 39828553, *Find a Grave*, <http://www.findagrave.com>.

<sup>15</sup> "Find A Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVLM-DFV6> : accessed 14 April 2016), Alice C Duncan, 2005; Burial, Manhattan, Riley, Kansas, United States of America, Sunrise Cemetery; citing record ID 80507408, *Find a Grave*, <http://www.findagrave.com>.

**Dale Leroy Duncan** was born on February 2, 1915, on the family homestead in Hale, Colorado. He was the fifth child of Lettie Ellen Speer Duncan (1885-1956) and Edward Ellsworth Duncan (1881 – 1948). He had nine siblings named Vivian, Edyth, Edward, Clifford, Glen, Ruth, Verda, Doris, and Lora Lee. Shortly after Dale was born, the family moved to Cheyenne Co., KS, in the northwest part of town. Dale would spend his entire childhood here, attending primary school and high school. Even though he contracted Rheumatic Fever at a young age which affected his lungs, he was very active in sports including football and wrestling. During his senior year, Dale was the Kansas State Champion in wrestling. This win would change his life forever.

Dale Duncan graduated from St. Francis High School in 1934, during the Great Depression. Being a farmer's son, Dale's family was also dealing with the effects of the Dust Bowl. In 1934, Dale received an offer to attend Kansas State College for wrestling. He did not accept due to the lack of money to pay for his tuition and board. He joined the Civilian Conservation Corp to earn money to send home to his family<sup>16</sup>. At his assigned camp, he played baseball and his commander took notice of his athleticism. After a few attempts to convince Dale to attend KSC, the commander took matters into his own hands and travelled to St. Francis to ask local businesses to help Dale started in his education. The businesses agreed and Dale enrolled at KSC.

In Figure 2.3 "College Graduation Rates for All, and by Gender, Region, and Ancestry by Year of Twenty-First Birthday," Fischer and Hout, in their book, *Century of Difference: How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years*, they show the IPUMS data that explores the low rate of graduation between 1900 and 2000<sup>17</sup>. Even though there is an increase of graduations over the time frame, the numbers are still very low. For instance, approximately only 4% of the American population and 18% of all high school graduates finished college by their twenty first birthday in 1900. In 2000, approximately 26% of the American population and

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<sup>16</sup> Michael Smith, June 10, 2013 (6:25 p.m.), "State by State: The CCC in Kansas," *Civilian Conservation Corps Resource Page*, accessed April 8, 2016, <http://cccreources.blogspot.com/2013/06/state-by-state-ccc-in-kansas.html>.

<sup>17</sup> Fisher and Hout, *Century*, 15.

30% of high school graduates completed college by age 21. Dale Duncan attended college from 1934 to 1938 and would have graduated when he was 22 years old. During this time period, approximately 13% of the American population and 17% of high school graduates finished by age 21. Due to the cut off being 21 years old, Dale Duncan would have not been added to this number. However, considering the time period and the fact that the United States was in economic hardship, it is an accomplishment none the less.

At KSC, Dale took on many part-time jobs in order to pay for his tuition and board. He tried his hardest in school and wrestling because he did not want to let the people down who had helped him. At one point, he almost did quit school to go back home to help the family due to a hog cholera outbreak that killed most of the family's stock. His family told him not to; he had a job to do in Manhattan. By 1938, Dale Duncan received his bachelor's degree in Physical Education and had become the captain of the wrestling team<sup>18</sup>. He won the Big 6 wrestling championship in 1937 (he came in second in 1936 and 1938) and had been invited to the 1936 Olympics in Berlin<sup>19</sup>. After graduating, he began teaching and coaching in Lenora, KS.

It was this teaching position that would lead Dale Duncan to meet his future wife, Cora Alice Young. It is stated that they fell in love instantly and married only 6 months after meeting. Dale would change teaching jobs each year, first to Eskridge in 1939 and second to Oberlin in 1940. Finally, in 1943, Dale was offered a position at Kansas State College as the physical education and military training instructor position. Unfortunately, soon after accepting the position and moving to Manhattan, Dale found out that he was to be drafted into World War II. He decided to join the Navy and was sent to the South Pacific. After the war, he was hired at KSU as the housing director and later worked at a car

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<sup>18</sup> "Lawrence Journal World," Google News, accessed April 20, 2016, <https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2199&dat=19380315&id=S2NeAAAAIBAJ&sjid=H2ENAAAAIBAJ&pg=3652,1593949&hl=en>.

<sup>19</sup> "Kansas State University Royal Purple 1937 Yearbook," Internet Archive, accessed April 9, 2016, <https://archive.org/stream/royalpurple1937unse#page/220/mode/2up>.

dealership in town. In 1951, Manhattan was victim to one of the biggest floods on record in the area and a lot of businesses were lost, including the dealership that Dale worked at during this time<sup>20</sup>.

In 1958, Dale was appointed the Postmaster in Manhattan and remained in that position until his retirement in 1975. He also was involved in the National Guard and Army Reserves. During the 1960s, he was the Company Commanding Officer of the Manhattan Army Reserves and fully retired from the military as a Lieutenant Colonel. All of his sons, Patrick, Michael, Timothy, and Terry, would follow in his footsteps and would join the military in some way. Only one son, Timothy, would make a career out of it.

After retirement, Dale and his wife Alice, spent time together and with their family in the home they built together in the 1950s. While Alice would tend to her gardens, bird watching, bridge playing, and baking, Dale played golf, did woodworking, and watched Westerns and Lawrence Welk. Hobbies, some they had learned about when they were younger, would fill up their twilight years. According to Steven Gelber, in his journal article “A Job You Can’t Lose: Work and Hobbies in the Great Depression,” many individuals learned hobbies that would busy the mind, were fairly cheap to engage in, and could possibly give the person a little money or thrifty gift ideas<sup>21</sup>. In addition, these hobbies would be carried on throughout people’s lives, especially after retirement. As stated under information about Cora Alice Young Duncan’s biography, Dale Duncan passed away on August 25, 1999, from heart complications. To this day, family members will still tell funny stories about him, tell his jokes and catch phrases, and recite the poem, written by Peter Dale Wimbrow, Jr., that was given in his eulogy<sup>22</sup>:

When you get all you want and you struggle for pelf,  
and the world makes you king for a day,  
then go to the mirror and look at yourself  
and see what that man has to say.

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<sup>20</sup> “1940-1960,” Riley County Historical Museum Photo Gallery, accessed April 8, 2016, <http://rchmphotoalbum.weebly.com/1940-1960.html>.

<sup>21</sup> Steven Gelber, “A Job You Can’t Lose: Work and Hobbies in the Great Depression,” *Journal of Social History* 24, No. 4 (1991): 741, accessed February 21, 2016, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3788855>.

<sup>22</sup> “The Guy In the Glass,” accessed April 20, 2016, <http://www.newagemultimedia.com/firebrace/mirror.html>.

For it isn't your mother, your father or wife  
whose judgment upon you must pass,  
but the man, whose verdict counts most in your life  
is the one staring back from the glass.

He's the fellow to please,  
never mind all the rest.  
For he's with you right to the end,  
and you've passed your most difficult test  
if the man in the glass is your friend.

You may be like Jack Horner and "chisel" a plum,  
And think you're a wonderful guy,  
But the man in the glass says you're only a bum  
If you can't look him straight in the eye.

You can fool the whole world,  
down the highway of years,  
and take pats on the back as you pass.  
But your final reward will be heartache and tears  
if you've cheated the man in the glass.



## GENERATION FOUR

**A1a1a. Margaret McIntyre Jones (1912-unk)**

**A1a1b. Frances Jones (1911-unk)**

**A1a2a. Violet Cooper Drury (1899-unk)**

**A1a2b. Peter Francis Drury (1897-unk)**

**A1b1a. Cora Alice Hardinger Young (1895-1963)**

**A1b1b. Fred Leroy Young (1894-1969)**

**A1b2a. Lettie Ellen Speer Duncan (1885-1956)**

**A1b2b. Edward Ellsworth Duncan (1881-1948)**

Beyond the year born, the author does not know more about her following maternal great grandparents, **Margaret McIntyre Jones**, (1912-unk), **Francis Jones** (1911-unk), **Violet Cooper Drury** (1899-unk), and **Peter Francis Drury** (1897-unk). Further research will be done in the future.

**Cora Alice Hardinger Young** was born on March 11, 1895, in Clarke Co., Iowa. Not much is known by the author of her paternal great grandmother except that she was the daughter of Alice Elizabeth Hermance (1860-1940) and Joseph Benson Hardinger (1857-1930) and was one of seven children. Cora's parents were very religious; therefore, Cora grew up in a fairly restrictive home. When she was 20 years old, Cora met and married Fred Leroy Young on February 14, 1916, in Decatur, Iowa<sup>23</sup>. In 1918, the two welcomed their first child, Cora Alice Young. Soon afterwards, the family moved to Norton Co., Kansas, so Fred could begin farming. It was here that Cora's second child, Pauline was born, in 1919. Cora was said to be a very frail individual and very emotional; being prone to depression.

Due to her husband being worried about her condition, the family moved back to Iowa in 1922 so Cora could receive the proper nurturing from her mother. When Fred felt that her health and mentality had gone back to normal, he moved the family back to Kansas in 1924, right before Cora was to give birth to third child, Ralph. It is believed by family members that Cora was given an experimental drug during labor and delivery which would have profound impact on her mental state for the rest of her life.

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<sup>23</sup> "Iowa, County Marriages, 1838-1934", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XJJP-8LX> : accessed 22 April 2016), Fred Leroy Young and Cora Alice Hardinger, 1916.

[Information omitted for privacy.]

Cora passed away in 1963.

**Fred Leroy Young**, Alissa Duncan's paternal great grandfather, was born on October 6, 1894, in Decatur Co., Iowa. He was the second child of eight born to Cora Bell Riddle Young (1868-1950) and James William Young (1867-1945). Fred spent most of his younger life in Iowa and met his wife, Cora Alice Hardinger, in Iowa. After they married in 1916 and had their first child, Alice, in 1918, the family moved to northwest Kansas. Fred would take his family back and forth from Kansas to Iowa for many years before deciding to stay in Iowa in 1936.

While Fred spent most of his life being a farmer, he did dabble in an alternative form of therapy called magnetic massage. While in Iowa in 1922, during a respite for his wife, Fred attended the Weltmer Institute of Suggestive Therapeutics<sup>24</sup>. He graduated with honors and provided masseur services to people. His "office" was located just south of the Iowa border, in Missouri, due to fact this new type of therapy was banned from the state. Fred's time of an alternative masseur did not last long. By 1924, Fred moved his family back to Kansas, where he became a farmer once more.

During this stint in Kansas, Fred saw his wife's mental and physical state decline dramatically.

[Information omitted for privacy.]

During the next few years, Fred's children stepped up in the home to make ends meet. He also hired a young woman named Isma Marsh to help around the home. In 1936, Fred decided that farming in Kansas was no longer an option for his family and decided a final move back to Iowa. He decided to take Isma with him and asked her to be his wife. They were married in 1936 and remained married until Fred's death August 26, 1969.

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<sup>24</sup> "Weltmer Institute of Suggestive Therapeutics," Wikipedia, accessed February 23, 2016, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weltmer\\_Institute\\_of\\_Suggestive\\_Therapeutics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weltmer_Institute_of_Suggestive_Therapeutics).

In April of 1942, at the age of 47, Fred had to register with United States for a possible draft in World War II<sup>25</sup>. Fred was never chosen; however, this is proof of the need of bodies during the war. Fred lived the rest of his life as a farmer in Decatur Co., Iowa. He outlived his son, Ralph. He hardly saw his daughter, Alice, during the latter portion of his life; however, the author can tell by the tribute written by her grandmother, Alice, that she cared very much and looked up to her father even though she had limited communication with him. In her book, *My Young Family-Quakers in Indiana*, Alice Young Duncan, writes about her fond memories she had with her father on the farm and his musical talents<sup>26</sup>.

**Lettie Ellen Speer Duncan**, Alissa's paternal great grandmother, was born on January 12, 1885, in Solomon City, Kansas. She was the first child of thirteen born to Mary Hannah Kelly (1864-1939) and John Wesley Speer (1856-1931). At two months old, Lettie's family moved to western Kansas where she would spend the rest of her life. On May 21, 1904, she married Edward Ellsworth Duncan and they moved to St. Francis, KS, shortly after they had their son, Dale Leroy Duncan, the author's paternal grandfather. Lettie was said to be well loved by her family and was the epitome of the loving mother and grandmother. While the author never met this great grandparent, she would spend many Duncan-Speer Reunions in St. Francis, KS, hearing stories of Lettie and her husband Edward. Lettie passed away on her birthday, January 12, 1956. She is buried in the St. Francis Cemetery<sup>27</sup>.

**Edward Ellsworth Duncan** was born to Nancy Jane Woodside Duncan (1853-1905) and Elias Duncan (1841-1929) on October 2, 1881, in Pickering, Missouri. He was the sixth child of eight. At four years of age, Edward's family moved to northwestern Kansas, which was considered a frontier at that time. He spent his entire childhood here and met his life mate, Lettie Speer, in the area. They married on May 21, 1904. After homesteading in Hale, Colorado, between 1906 and 1915, Edward moved his family

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<sup>25</sup> "United States World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QKCH-R2B5> : accessed 22 April 2016), Fred Leroy Young, 27 Apr 1942; citing NARA microfilm publication M1936, M1937, M1939, M1951, M1962, M1964, M1986, M2090, and M2097 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

<sup>26</sup> Duncan, *Young*, 10.

<sup>27</sup> "Find A Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/QVKD-3R8M> : accessed 22 April 2016), Lettie Ellen Duncan, 1956; Burial, Saint Francis, Cheyenne, Kansas, United States of America, Saint Francis Cemetery; citing record ID 40579168, *Find a Grave*, <http://www.findagrave.com>.

to St. Francis, KS, where he spent the rest of his life. Edward was said to have a simple philosophy; treat people the same. In Alice Young Duncan's book, *History of Dragoo, Speer, Duncan, Woodside Families*, she summarizes a passage from his obituary<sup>28</sup>:

Ed Duncan was a common man. He recognized no caste, be it wealth or power, one was as good as another. No grudge ever found lodgment in his heart. He believed every man had a right to his opinion, and his own opinions, which were quite marked, were not forced upon his neighbor. He believed that everyone should provide for his family, if it were possible, and he worked with that thought in mind. He was a kind husband, and indulgent parent and a thoughtful neighbor, ever ready to lend a helping hand to those in need.

Edward Duncan passed away on August 6, 1948, in St. Francis, KS.

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<sup>28</sup> Alice Duncan, "*History of Dragoo, Speer, Duncan, Woodside Families*" (Unpublished Book, Manhattan, KS, 1972), 53.

## GENERATION FIVE

A1a1a1. Elizabeth Regina Lifford McIntyre (1876-unk)

A1a1a2. Harry Melville McIntyre (1874-1912)

A1a1b1. Anne Marshall Jones (dates unknown)

A1a1b2. George Jones (dates unknown)

A1a2a1. Ann Morley Cooper (dates unknown)

A1a2a2. Henry Cooper (dates unknown)

A1a2b1. Mary Agnes Connelly Drury (1869-1941)

A1a2b2. Patrick J. Drury (1871-1950)

A1b1a1. Alice Elizabeth Hermance Hardinger (1860-1940)

A1b1a2. Joseph Benson Hardinger (1857-1930)

A1b1b1. Cora Bell Riddle Young (1868-1950)

A1b1b2. James William Young (1867-1945)

A1b2a1. Mary Hannah Kelly Speer (1864-1939)

A1b2a2. John Wesley Speer (1856-1931)

A1b2b1. Nancy Jane Woodside Duncan (1853-1905)

A1b2b2. Elias Duncan (1841-1929)

Beyond some of the years born and deceased, the author does not know more about her following maternal great-great grandparents, **Elizabeth Regina Lifford McIntyre**, (1876-unk), **Harry Melville McIntyre** (1874-1912), **Anne Marshall Jones** (dates unk), **George Jones** (dates unk), **Ann Morley Cooper** (dates unk), **Henry Cooper** (dates unknown), **Mary Agnes Connelly Drury** (1869-1941), and **Patrick J. Drury** (1871-1950). Further research will be done in the future.

**Alice Elizabeth Hermance Hardinger**, the author's paternal great-great grandmother, was born on October 28, 1860, in Salem, Ohio. She is the second child of seven, born to Elizabeth Ann McCave Hermance (1832-1909) and Henry Burton Hermance (1833-1904). Not much is known by the author of her early years except for the fact that she was a school teacher before marriage. Also, at some point her family must have moved to Iowa. Alice Elizabeth married Joseph Benson Hardinger on July 8, 1884, and devoted her life to being a housewife. Alice Elizabeth was said to be a caring but strict and religious

mother and wife. She loved to read to her children and grandchildren. According to Alice Young Duncan, in her book *Hardingers of Bedford Co. Pennsylvania*, she writes of one of her grandmother's favorite religious quotes, "Human strength and human greatness spring not from life's sunny side. Hero's must be more than driftwood floating on life's waveless tide." Alice Elizabeth wrote this quote in her daughter's, Cora, memory book in 1906<sup>29</sup>. This quote could not be more apt when one considers the strife that both Cora and her daughter, Alice, would endure in the early 1900s. For more description, please read their stories above. Alice Elizabeth had seven children, including Cora Alice Hardinger, Alissa Duncan's great grandmother. Alice Elizabeth passed away on February 23, 1940, in Osceola, Iowa.

**Joseph Benson Hardinger** was born on September 19, 1857, and was the fourth of seven children born to Eliza Ann Rice Hardinger (1821-1899) and Conrad Henry Hardinger (1817-1851). Joseph, who was Alissa's paternal great-great grandfather, was born Allegany Co., Maryland. He is first seen in the US census in 1860<sup>30</sup>. During Joseph's childhood, his family moved to West Virginia and then Iowa. On July 8, 1884, he married Alice Elizabeth Hermance and they remained their entire lives in Decatur Co., Iowa. Joseph taught school for a short time in his younger years and then owned interest in a local hardware store in Osceola. Afterwards, he devoted himself to farming, his family, and his religion. Joseph and his wife had seven children. He passed away on February 25, 1930, in Des Moines, Iowa.

**Cora Bell Riddle Young**, Alissa's paternal great-great grandmother, was born on April 1, 1868, in Tama Co., Iowa, to Amelia Lydia Radabaugh Riddle (1829-1913) and Benjamin Jefferson Riddle (1823-1911). She was the ninth of ten children. Not much is known to the author about Cora Bell's early life. She married James William Young on January 27, 1889 in Decatur Co., Iowa at her family's home. Cora Bell was a dutiful housewife and loving mother and grandmother. She was said to be a "trickster" and always looked at life events with a positive spin. Even when one of her children, Clara contracted infantile paralysis, or polio, and died at the age of 25, she remained positive. Another of her sons was

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<sup>29</sup> Alice Young Duncan, *Hardingers of Bedford Co. Pennsylvania*, (Unpublished Book, Manhattan, KS, 1975), 31.

<sup>30</sup> "United States Census, 1860", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M697-5C1> : accessed 22 April 2016), Joseph Hardinger in entry for Henry Hardinger, 1860.

killed in a gun accident when he was 21 years old. Cora Bell and her husband, James, lived in Decatur Co., Iowa, where James farmed. Cora Bell Riddle Young passed away on January 30, 1950.

**James William Young**, Alissa's paternal great-great grandfather, was born on August 18, 1867, in Lineville, which was on the state line of Missouri and Iowa. His parents were Minerva Ann Mullen Young (1845-1870) and William Albert Young (1842-1896). James' mother, Minerva passed away three years after his birth. His father would remarry within a few months to another woman by the name of Catherine and would return to his home state of Indiana, leaving James in Iowa to live with his grandparents, James and Anna Mullen in Decatur Co., Iowa. James began working on the railroad at the age of twelve. He also helped in farming. He married Cora Bell Riddle on January 27, 1889, and they lived most of their lives in Decatur Co., Iowa, where James owned two large farms and a home in a nearby town. James William Young passed away on February 28, 1945, in Decatur Co., Iowa<sup>31</sup>.

**Mary Hannah Kelly Speer**, another of Alissa's paternal great-great grandmothers, was born on August 29, 1864, in Brown Co., Kansas. She was one of ten children born to Thomas Dennis Kelly (1827-1894) and Mary Ellen Tippet (1833-1895). Mary Hannah first shows up in the US census in 1870 when she was six years old<sup>32</sup>. Not much is known about Mary Hannah's life except that she was married to John Wesley Speer on March 16, 1884, in Dickenson Co., Kansas. They later moved to Decatur Co., Kansas, then to Washington in 1893, but only stayed a few years. They returned to Kansas for approximately fifteen years and then moved back out to the west coast, where they would spend the rest of their lives. Mary Hannah was a housewife and her husband, John Wesley, was a farmer and a dray line worker, a person would unload goods from supply trains. Mary and John would have fourteen children

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<sup>31</sup> "Iowa, County Death Records, 1880-1992," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVMN-SRBQ> : accessed 22 April 2016), James Willisam Young, 28 Feb 1945; citing Death, Center, Decatur, Iowa, United States, page 298, offices of county clerk from various counties; FHL microfilm 1,764,945.

<sup>32</sup> "United States Census, 1870," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MCJN-4BH> : accessed 22 April 2016), Mary Kelley in household of Thomas Kelley, Kansas, United States; citing p. 4, family 29, NARA microfilm publication M593 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm 545,928.

throughout their lives. Mary Hannah passed away on September 27, 1939, in Walla Walla Co., Washington<sup>33</sup>.

**John Wesley Speer**, another paternal great-great grandfather, was born on March 10, 1856, in Delaware Co., Indiana. He was the first son of Silas Enyard Speer (1836-1924) and Mary Elizabeth Dragoo (1836-1904) and had seven siblings. John was married to Mary Ellen Tippet on March 16, 1884. In 1893, John moved his wife and children to Washington to be with his father, Silas, after he had moved there in 1888. John and Mary Ellen decided that the Washington frontier was too underdeveloped and “wild;” therefore, they decided to move back to Jennings, Kansas. It was here that John became a farmer and dray line operation owner. It is not known by this author when John moved his family back out west; however, according to the 1910 US census, he was listed as head of house in North Milton, Oregon<sup>34</sup>. In the 1920 US census, he is listed as a farm laborer in Dixie, Washington<sup>35</sup>. John and Mary Ellen had fourteen children throughout their lives. John Wesley Speer passed away February 1, 1931, in Walla Walla Co., Washington.

**Nancy Jane Woodside Duncan** was born on March 9, 1853, in Laharpe, Illinois. She was the second of twelve children born to Hugh Goliher Woodside (1825-1888) and Catharine Wilson Woodside (1834-1905). Not much is known about Nancy Jane’s life except that she was married to Elias Duncan on March 8, 1869, the day before her sixteenth birthday. Nancy and her husband moved to many places throughout their lives including Illinois, Missouri, and three separate places in Kansas. By 1902, they had

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<sup>33</sup> "Washington Death Certificates, 1907-1960," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:N3R4-1PR> : accessed 22 April 2016), Mary Hannah Speer, 27 Sep 1939; citing Walla Walla, Walla Walla, Washington, reference cn 120, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Olympia; FHL microfilm 2,023,721.

<sup>34</sup> "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MLYP-9YG> : accessed 22 April 2016), John W Speer, North Milton, Umatilla, Oregon, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 266, sheet 17B, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm 1,375,302.

<sup>35</sup> "United States Census, 1920," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MHND-ZRH> : accessed 22 April 2016), W John Speer, Dixie, Walla Walla, Washington, United States; citing sheet 1A, NARA microfilm publication T625 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm 1,821,943.



arrived at Jennings, Kansas, and spent their twilight years on a farm. Nancy and Elias had eight children. Nancy Jane Woodside Duncan passed away on March 22, 1905 in Topeka, KS.

**Elias Duncan** was born on May 1, 1841, in Blandinville, Illinois. He was the eighth of ten children born to Joseph Duncan (1807-1881) and Nancy Harris Duncan (1802-1844). Elias' mother passed away only three years after he was born and his father never remarried. In the 1850 US Census, Joseph Duncan is shown to be the head of household with no wife, seven children, and one fourteen year old laborer<sup>36</sup>. Something that is of interest is that Elias was not listed on this census as a member of the household; however, the author was unable to find if Elias had been living with another family member or another household at this time. When he was twenty years old in 1862, Elias enlisted in the 11<sup>th</sup> Cavalry of Illinois and served three years and seven months in the Civil War. He was honorably discharged on September 30, 1865. In Alice Young Duncan's book, *History of Dragoo, Speer, Duncan, Woodside Families*, she provides Elias' Civil War discharge certificate<sup>37</sup>. Afterwards, Elias returned to his hometown. He met and married Nancy Jane Woodside on March 8, 1869, onboard a river boat. The two had eight children and moved their family from Illinois, Missouri, and Kansas. The two set roots in Sheridan Co., Kansas, where Elias homesteaded for seventeen years. Finally in 1902, the family retired on a farm in Jennings, Kansas. Elias passed away on April 16, 1929, in Jennings, Kansas. A statement about Elias, the author's paternal great-great grandfather, in his obituary sums him up nicely<sup>38</sup>:

“Mr. Duncan has passed on life's highway the rock that marks the highest point, and was with slow steps descending the western slope to sleep at its foot. When being weary, for a moment lay down by the wayside, took his burden for a pillow and fell into that dreamless sleep.”

Elias Duncan was a hard worker and survived many hardships and hard times in his life. However, persevered through them and made a life for himself and his family.

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<sup>36</sup> "United States Census, 1850," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M8R3-5YX> : accessed 22 April 2016), Joseph Duncan, McDonough county, McDonough, Illinois, United States; citing family 289, NARA microfilm publication M432 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

<sup>37</sup> Duncan, "*History*," 50.

<sup>38</sup> Duncan, "*History*," 46.

## The Bromwell Connection: Extra Story

One final story the author would like to include in this Family Story is a connection she uncovered for her family during the duration of her research. The researcher found a commercial website called “The Jacob Bromwell Company” serendipitously while randomly choosing a name in her pedigree to research<sup>39</sup>. The name Jacob Bromwell appeared on her paternal grandmother’s pedigree chart. The connection was the following:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Gen. - Alissa Anne Duncan (1978- ) – daughter of
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Gen. - Terry Ellsworth Duncan (1953 - ) – son of
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Gen. - Cora Alice Young Duncan (1918-2005) – daughter of
- 4<sup>th</sup> Gen. - Fred Leroy Young (1894-1969) – son of
- 5<sup>th</sup> Gen. - James William Young (1867-1945) – son of
- 6<sup>th</sup> Gen. - William Albert Young (1842-1896) – son of
- 7<sup>th</sup> Gen. - William L. Young (1809-1889) and Helen R. Bromwell (1815-1891) –  
daughter of
- 8<sup>th</sup> Gen. - Jacob Bromwell (1785-1866)

At first, the researcher was confused if there was an actual connection to the Jacob Bromwell on her tree and this website. She noticed the birth dates and places of the founder were identical to what she had on her pedigree chart, both Jacob Bromwells were born in 1785 in Richmond, Virginia, and had later moved to Cincinnati, Ohio. However, there was a discrepancy on the Bromwell website concerning the name of founder’s son, Jacob Henry Bromwell, who was a congressman from Ohio. The Jacob Bromwell on the researcher’s tree did not match, as there was no Jacob Henry Bromwell listed as a son. After some researching in another source, *The Bromwell Genealogy*, a book written by Henrietta Bromwell, the researcher realized that the website had incorrect information<sup>40</sup>. Jacob Henry Bromwell was not Jacob Bromwell’s son but his grandson. By finding this issue, the researcher confirmed that the man who created the Jacob Bromwell business in 1819, which sells kitchenware and housewares, was her 5th great

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<sup>39</sup> “Our Founder.” Jacob Bromwell Company, accessed February 23, 2016, <https://www.jacobbromwell.com/our-founder>.

<sup>40</sup> Henrietta Bromwell, *The Bromwell Genealogy: Including Descendants of William Bromwell and Beulah Hall With Data Relating to Others of The Bromwell Name in America* (Denver: W.F. Robinson Printing Co., 1910), accessed February 23, 2016, [https://dcms.lds.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps\\_pid=IE46918](https://dcms.lds.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE46918).

grandfather on her paternal grandmother's side. No one in the researcher's family had made this connection. Below is a short biography of Jacob Bromwell.

**Jacob Bromwell** was born on August 3, 1785, in Richmond, Virginia. He was the fourth of seven children born to William Bromwell (1751-1820) and Beulah Hall Bromwell (1759-1824). In his early years, Jacob was sent to be educated in a Quaker school in Baltimore, Maryland. Along with his education, he learned how to wire weave and make wheat fans which he helped make into a business alongside his father. It is stated in Henrietta Bromwell's book, *The Bromwell Genealogy: Including Descendants of William Bromwell and Beulah Hall With Data Relating to Others of The Bromwell Name in America*, that Jacob gained enough money by 1815 that he made his way to Cincinnati, Ohio, to begin his own business<sup>41</sup>. The Jacob Bromwell website substantiates this information by adding that Bromwell called his business "The Bromwell Brush & Wire Goods Company" and was said to be the first wire weaving and housewares business in the United States<sup>42</sup>.

Jacob Bromwell was married two times in his life. The first marriage was to Mary Little; date of marriage unknown. The two would have two children, William, in 1806, and Jacob, in 1809. Mary passed away sometime shortly afterwards. His second marriage was to Ellen Moore McNabb, this woman is a part of the author's lineage, on October 14, 1814. The two must have met sometime between 1811 and 1814 because Ellen told family members that she first saw and noticed him when he passed her house while in his regiment during the War of 1812. Ellen also had a mystery to her which was related in Henrietta's book. According to legend, Ellen was the daughter of Robert Moore and Helen Stuart. It is stated that Robert brought his family over in 1794. After securing his family with a relative, he returned to Scotland but was never heard from again. Some believe that his ship was lost at sea or he was killed in a rebellion fight while back in Scotland<sup>43</sup>.

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<sup>41</sup> Bromwell, "*Bromwell*," 33.

<sup>42</sup> "Our Founder."

<sup>43</sup> Bromwell, "*Bromwell*," 35.

Jacob and Ellen had ten children, including Helen Rennie who is the author's 4<sup>th</sup> great grandmother. Jacob spent the rest of his life in Cincinnati. He retired from his business in 1846 and gave it to his first born son, William. The business has been passed down through that lineage ever since. Jacob Bromwell passed away at his country home near Cincinnati on November 27, 1866.

There is one final side note about the Bromwell name. It is believed and written about in Henrietta Bromwell's book that name Bromwell has been changed over time. A few members in the lineage were found to be spelled Brummell. It was changed to Bromwell sometime in the early 1700s. This is also shown in Alice Young Duncan's pedigree book<sup>44</sup>. Another legend is that the name Bromwell was originally Cromwell with a direct lineage link to Oliver Cromwell, the Protector<sup>45</sup>. Individuals who had come to the United States felt the need to change their last name to escape ridicule following the Cromwellian downfall. Even after the fear of ties would cause hardships for family members ceased, it is stated that the connection to the name had been lost. The Bromwells had made a name for themselves all on their own.

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<sup>44</sup> Alice Duncan, "My Pedigree" (Unpublished Book, Manhattan, KS, 1983), 17-18.

<sup>45</sup> Bromwell, "*Bromwell*," 35.