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Amy Storey's Family History

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The Family History of

Amy B Storey

23 November 2016

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GENERATION ONE

My name is Amy Cowan, and I was born in 1981 in Pittsburg Kansas and grew up in a very small town in Southwest Missouri. I am still fairly close to where I grew up, my mother still lives there with my grandmother. My mother still lives with my grandmother as her caregiver, since my grandmother is ninety years old. I am an only child and grew up in a single parent household so my mother and I are very close. My father left my mother when I was two. They were young parents at 19 and 17 respectively, so it's safe to say my mother and I grew up together in one form or another.

Both sides of my family are very close, even though some of the family is spread out we mostly are all in communication in one way or another. I do have family on the East Coast and Canada but most have not traveled very far from southeast Kansas or southwest Missouri. The family who do not live in the immediate area I do not see very often, maybe once a decade if I am lucky. My aunt, which splits time in North Carolina and Michigan, we text message regularly, but it is her children I really have no contact with. I have two children--a fourteen-year-old son and a ten-year-old daughter and between the two of them, I always have something to do. My son is a sports fanatic and basically plays a sport of some kind all year around. My daughter is more like me, an indoor girl who likes to read. She does, however, play softball and swims, so like I said they keep me busy.

I work and go to school and run around doing things for my children all the time. It is 2016 and I am currently in my last semester as a graduate student, earning my Master's Degree in History. I have two jobs, the one I enjoy is working as a graduate assistant to Dr. Bonnekesen, the Chair of the HPASS Department at Pittsburg State University. I am also transcribing some letters from World War II for Dr. Lawson and Dr. Daley. I am very excited to be doing this work and am sad it will be coming to an end in December when I graduate. The job I do not like is working at McDonald's. I have worked for McDonald's for fifteen years and came back to school to get away. I originally began working at McDonald's part-time and it became something much more as the years passed by. I hope when I graduate I can find somewhere else to work doing something I enjoy.

Some things about myself: I want nothing more than the ability to travel. I want to see this world and as much as possible. I believe I feel this way because I have been stuck in the middle of the country my entire life. I am thirty-five years old and I have been to the Gulf of Mexico, which is as close to the ocean I have ever been and that was only three years ago. I have been on an airplane once, to a very uneventful trip to Las Vegas in 2011. I really have not seen what this country let alone the whole world has to offer me. A few places I have been, mostly because of driving to other destinations: Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and Nevada. Like I said I have been landlocked most of my life and I want to get away.

Some ideas about the world we live in today, to me the world today is a very scary place. Wars of ideology are the worst kind of war, and that is what this world is fighting now, is a war of ideology. This country is run by corporations and politicians mostly are not in it to change the world, they want to keep it the same and make money for themselves. I have lost faith in the politics of this country. I have never voted but will this election because corporate greed is being represented in Donald Trump and if I vote against him I will at least know my part was played to not doom this country to a bigamist “President” with zero State experience on how to run a country. However, I was not able to vote. My registration was “lost” and Crawford County did not allow me to vote. The County Clerk wanted my birth certificate to prove I was born in Kansas. I did not get to vote!!!

My political views lean towards the progressive side, I am a big believer in Socialism. I do not believe this country will ever move to socialist programs because that would require the government to care about its people and not just the top 1% who continue to stay rich as long as more people are poor. This is not a democratic society as everyone believes it to be and until there is major change life in the United States will continue to be rough. I would love to move to the UK and have the health care system they have and the fact they care about their people is a huge step compared to what we as Americans have to deal with if people are sick or have an accident of any kind. Americans have to answer to insurance companies and they decide whether or not people can be treated or not. It should not matter what the

issue is, treatment should always be the best option, who cares what the insurance company has to say about it.

Ideology, like I said, is a scary reason to fight for anything. When it comes to ideology or “religion” I am not much of a religious type. I never really have been religious, I did attend church, of course, but it is just not my thing. As a child, I would go to Sunday school, but even then I didn’t understand it. As I grew older and saw how religion had such a huge impact on all her friends I still never really followed. As a teenager, I realized just how hypocritical religion really can be. And as I have become a full-blown historian I question why anyone would believe any of it. So many people put their lives in the hands of, lack of a better title, cult leader. All the little “churches” that have popped up all over the place follow similar doctrines but each has their own sets of rules. I identify as an agnostic. No religion is any greater than the other and again as a historian, I have studied how religion is one of the most fought over things in the world. This belief would also explain my political views as well, being more progressive and less based on religious doctrine.

I was born in Pittsburg Kansas but grew up in Liberal Missouri, just across the state line. Liberal’s past is intriguing. The history of Liberal began with an Atheist by the name of George Walser.¹ He wanted a town with no religion or rules, he wanted to be the center of attention so much when he built the cemetery, it was made in a circle. Walser was buried in the middle. He did this so when the “second coming” did come everyone would rise and they would see him as their leader. Currently, the ironic thing is there are several churches within the small town.

I went to Liberal schools from kindergarten until I graduated high school in 1999. I was very happy to leave that place when I left to go to college my life got so much better. I had a lot of friends growing up, but only a few select ones I would be with often. I am very much the same as an adult, I talk to many people but have only a few close friends. I am an only child and very used to being alone. I am an introvert and being inside alone with a book is my idea of a good time.

¹Wikipedia. “Liberal, Missouri.” Accessed November 17, 2016. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberal,_Missouri

My idea of fun is mostly reading. As a graduate student, “pleasure” reading has not been possible for quite some time but Amy looks forward to it once she graduates. Another thing I enjoy are movies, lots of movies. I love pop culture and I am a nerd and movies are one of my specialties when it comes to useless trivia. People tell me to go on a game show and win money with all my useless knowledge. I really like watching shows about travel, Anthony Bourdain’s many shows on the Travel Channel and his newest on CNN I have watched the full seasons many times. Anthony Bourdain speaks to me as a presenter, because he goes to places and talks about food. He goes into other cultures and shows us how the people live by learning how they prepare food and other parts of their culture. Bourdain is a chef and well-known author of many books and to me highly entertaining. He does not force himself onto the people he is visiting and appears very curious. I find him humorous and he goes to all parts of the world. I enjoy seeing other places and cultures because I know it will probably be my only way to experience them.

One of my favorite vacations was when my mother and I and a friend at the time Lynette and her mom Louetta, went to Pigeon Forge Tennessee. It was so much more than a summer vacation--it was an adventure. We left at midnight and arrived in Memphis around 8am and had to wait quite a while for a hotel room but once a nap was taken we went to Graceland and the Memphis Zoo. Upon leaving Memphis the trip was supposed to continue east across Tennessee but my mother took a wrong turn and ended up taking the scenic route through Alabama. Not the plan at all, but once we entered back into Tennessee we stayed in Chattanooga and I really liked that city. Southern charm to say the least and it had an aquarium which was my first time at an aquarium and was fun. Once we finally got to Pigeon Forge we went to Dollywood and up into the Smokey Mountains. I did not appreciate it then and would love to go back and see the landscape and appreciate more now. We chose to go a different route home through Nashville so it was a tour of Tennessee, to say the least. I still joke with my mom about taking a wrong turn and ending up in Alabama and that was almost twenty years ago.

My life began when I began college at Pittsburg State University in 1999. I lived in the dorms my first year. However, I decided a boy was more important than making friends in my new living

arrangements, so I missed out on a whole lot of fun. I was married in 2001, when was twenty. I did, however, continue in school towards my bachelor's degree. I gave birth to a son in September 2002. I did take a semester off because of the birth but immediately continued my education when the semester began in January 2003. I chose a new major of Justice Studies and that is what I earned her bachelor's degree for. In September 2004, my last year of getting my degree, I had to have emergency surgery because of an ectopic pregnancy, my blood pressure was drastically dropping and the doctor rushed me to the hospital by ambulance. The doctor saved the tube and in April 2005 I found out I was pregnant once again, one month before graduating Pitt State. My daughter was born at the end of December 2005 and both children are my world. I left my husband in 2009 and the divorce was final in 2010, I now have been divorced almost as long as I was married.

I used my 20s by having children and being married to a man who loved himself more than anything else. Now I am in my 30s and am spending more time with my children and continuing my education.

As I returned to continuing my education, I chose history for my area of study because I have loved history since the fifth grade. Mrs. Hays was my first social studies teacher and she was the one that opened my eyes to the past and how fun it could be to study the past. In fifth grade, I had to do a report on a state and do several different research projects regarding that state including maps and people from that state. My state was Montana and that was my first research project I did on her own and received an A on the assignment and from then on research and social science has peaked my interests.

In junior high and high school, my teacher was Mr. Krouse, he saw in me my love for studying history. I always destroyed the curve on any of his tests, I was not very popular in his class amongst other students because they never got a chance to have a better grade on a curve. I wanted to continue my history education in college but was pushed towards something to make money instead of something I liked to do. So once I began my Master's experience it has been mixed, the subjects have been very interesting and I love the classes I have taken with Dr. Daley and Dr. Thompson, but my advisor pushed me into a path I did not want to take but I am almost finished. I really am enjoying the archive work I am

doing but there is not enough opportunity in this area and I am not moving her children out of their school. Once they are out of school I will be more available for moving to a job of my liking, but until then I must figure out what to do for the next eight years.

Besides my education I have been an active member of my local community since I was sixteen I have had a job. In high school I worked on Saturday nights at the Rockin' K, I was a "vittle girl." I went to tables and handed out "extras," whole beets with salads and with entrees also I offered brown beans or macaroni and tomatoes. I was also a dishwasher at the local restaurant in Liberal until it was shut down for tax evasion. After I graduated high school I worked at Wal-Mart as a cashier until it interfered with my studies in college. I then went back to working only weekends at Gebhardt's Chicken Dinners in Mulberry, Kansas, and then returned to Wal-Mart after I realized I could not live on waitress tips.

At the time I was in the Communications Department at Pitt State and an opportunity came up to work at KKOW Radio, so I quit Wal-Mart yet again and began working as a radio DJ at 860 AM KKOW. I worked at the radio station for about a year and a half, but earning the minimum wage was not enough to support me. I then began working part-time at McDonald's in July 2001, and eventually after quitting the radio station began working full-time and became a manager in February 2003. I have been working at McDonald's for the last fifteen years and have been at several levels of employment. I began as crew, then moved into shift management and was a general manager twice. I was not a very good general manager and did not get to spend enough time with my children. They missed out on a lot of school activities and sporting events because of all of the time I spent at work away from them. My children and I had a car accident in 2013 and that experience made me reflect on the direction my life was going and decided to go back to Pitt State to get my master's degree and that is why I am here today.

GENERATION TWO

A1a. Suzette Louise Nichols (1962-)

A1b. John David Cowan (1963-)

Suzette Louise Nichols (1962-) was born January 19, 1962, in Des Moines Iowa. She moved to Liberal Missouri in 1971 with her parents, she was nine and was in the fourth grade. The Nichols family ran a gas station near Liberal Missouri. She graduated from Liberal High School in 1980. She married John David Cowan in February 1981. They had one child Amy Beth Cowan in May 1981. They divorced in 1984.

Suzette worked in the office of the Bottenfield's Corporation, a beauty supply company, in Pittsburg Kansas, the Liberal Bank of Minden, as branch manager, in Liberal Missouri, Casey's General Store, as a kitchen worker, in Liberal Missouri. She is currently employed at Liberal High School as a janitor. Suzette cleans houses for extra income, and is also a full-time caregiver for her mother "Becky". She loves her grandchildren very much and helps me out greatly with them all the time.

John David Cowan (1963-), was born June 14, 1963, in Pittsburg Kansas. He worked at Gebhardt's Chicken Dinners to save money to buy an orange truck. That is where he met Suzette Nichols. They married February 12, 1981. They had one daughter, Amy Beth Cowan was born in May 1981. John graduated from Arma High School in 1981. John and Suzette divorced in June 1984. He was married two more times. He currently lives in Texas.

GENERATION THREE

- Ala1. Eunice Louise "Becky" Becker (1926-)
- Ala2. Richard "Dick" Cleon Nichols (1927-1998)

- Alb1. Mary Sue "Marilyn" Wilson (1940-)
- Alb2. Maurice "Bucky" Ray Cowan (1940-)

My maternal grandmother **Eunice Louise Becker (1926-)**, was born July 10, 1926, in Leavenworth Kansas. She married Dick Nichols October 14, 1947, in Fayetteville Arkansas. They had four children. She was a housewife and loves reading, walking, and when she could embroidery. She currently lives with her daughter Suzette Cowan in Liberal Missouri. My mother and I lived with my maternal grandparents for several years. I remember my grandmother always taking care of me when I was sick, (which was quite a bit) and sitting in the living room on the hardwood floor watching the TV with grandma.

My maternal grandfather, **Richard Cleon Nichols (1927-1998)**, was born September 14, 1927, in Eureka Kansas. He married Becky Becker October 14, 1947, in Fayetteville Arkansas. They had four children. He was a well-driller and welder. He loved to draw, and write poetry. He graduated from McLouth High School. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army Engineer Corp having served from 1946-47. He enlisted in the Army and was classified as a Motor Sargeant. Richard did his training at Fort Lewis, Washington and was a member of the 6th Division, 6th Regiment, Company A, and served an overseas service in Korea. He was a member of the American Legion Post, in Liberal Missouri. He was an oil well driller in Kansas and California. He worked as a water well driller in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Illinois and Iowa. He drilled city and rural water wells. He moved from Polk City Iowa to Liberal Missouri in 1971. He, with his family, operated a Phillips Service Station and Welding Shoppe at the corners of 160 and 43 highway in Missouri for five years, also he ran a station in Hamilton, Kansas for several years. He moved to Grove Oklahoma in 1989, retired in 1990 and due to health reasons moved back to Liberal Missouri in 1996. Richard died October 20, 1998, in Pittsburg Kansas from complications related to Alzheimer's Disease. He is buried in the Liberal City Cemetery. My memories

of my “Dadoo”, which is what I called him because he was my father figure for several years of my life, are of humor. Grandpa Nichols always smoked a pipe and took naps. He loved tinkering around in the shop and made beautiful iron work at their house in Liberal.

My paternal grandmother, **Mary Sue “Marilyn” Wilson (1940-)**, was born July 21, 1940, in Mulberry Kansas. Marilyn married Bucky Cowan August 20, 1960, in Arma Kansas. They have two sons James and John. Four granddaughters, and eight great-grandchildren. She was a beautician, she had her own shop built on to their house in Mulberry Kansas. I have many fond memories of the beauty shop, spinning in the chair and coloring in all the coloring books she had for us girls out in the shop. I even helped with giving perms occasionally helping take out rollers and washing the rods and rollers in the sink for my “Momo”. She is currently 76 years old and works full-time at Via Christi Village in Pittsburg Kansas. Marilyn and Bucky currently still live in Mulberry Kansas in the same house they have since the 1960s.

My paternal grandfather **Maurice Ray “Bucky” Cowan (1940-)**, was born May 25, 1940, in Hanson Kentucky. He graduated high school and joined the Marines, he was in the service from 1958-1961. He married “Marilyn” Wilson August 20, 1960, in Arma Kansas. They have two sons James and John, four granddaughters and eight great-grandchildren. Bucky and Marilyn both love their family a great deal. Three of the granddaughters lived with them for several years, they helped raise the girls. Bucky worked in the warehouse at Bottenfield’s Corporation, a beauty supply warehouse in Pittsburg Kansas. He also worked as a jailer at the Crawford County Sheriff’s Office in Girard. He also worked as a bartender on the weekends at the Rockin K Saloon in Foxtown in the 1980s. I have many memories of visiting both he and her grandmother at the Rockin K. He also worked as a truck driver for the Kansas Department of Transportation which is where he retired from in the early 2000s. He currently lives with Marilyn in Mulberry Kansas.

GENERATION FOUR

Ala1a. Eunice Lilly Dobbs (1906-1997)

Ala1b. Joseph Emery Becker (1904-1967)

Ala2a. Mayme Valentine Montgomery (1898-1979)

Ala2b. John Lee Nichols Sr. (1895-1979)

Alb1a. Anna Cecelia Goodman (1908-2003)

Alb1b. John William Wilson (1906-2000)

Alb2a. Nellie Todd (1915-1992)

Alb2b. Paul David Cowan (1908-1970)

Becky Nichols' mother **Eunice Lilly Dobbs (1906-1997)**, was born February 19, 1906, in Virginia Nebraska. She married Joseph Emery Becker September 4, 1925. Eunice and Joseph had two children My grandmother, Eunice Louise, and her brother Joseph Emery Becker Jr. The two divorced and Eunice later married Dwight Parrish House. I only really have very limited memories of my great-grandmother House. When I was ten, grandma House flew from her home in California to live with Becky and Dick in Oklahoma. My mother and I went with Dick and Becky to pick grandma House up from the airport in Tulsa. However, when we arrived at the airport she was not there. The airline checked the flight and that flight arrived in Oklahoma City. So we had to drive several more hours to pick grandma House up in Oklahoma City. I remember being so hungry the entire way there and home. I also only remember my great-grandmother as smoking too much and being very cranky. My grandmother Becky even believes her own mother was not a nice person. Becky and her brother Joe lived with Eunice's parents for several years of their childhood.

Becky's father **Joseph Emery Becker (1904-1967)**, was born December 28, 1904, in Leavenworth Kansas. He married Eunice Lilly Dobbs September 4, 1965. They had two children. He divorced Eunice and married Pearl Williams. Joseph died in Leavenworth Kansas June 22, 1967. I never knew my great-grandfather Becker as he died several years before I was born. However, I do have several memories of Thanksgivings at Pearl's house in Grove Oklahoma. Pearl was a very nice lady and I liked her so much more than my blood relative that was my great-grandmother.

Dick Nichols' mother, **Mayme Valentine Montgomery (1898-1979)**, was born February 14, 1898, at Neal Kansas. She married John Lee Nichols on Thanksgiving Day, 1919. They had two sons John Lee Jr. and my grandfather Richard Cleon and one daughter, Mary Jane. Mayme died March 7, 1979, at Oak Hill Hospital in Joplin Missouri. She is buried in Liberal City Cemetery. I never knew either of her great-grandparents on the Nichols side as they also both died before I was born.

Dick Nichols' father, **John Lee Nichols Sr. (1895-1979)**, was born April 11, 1895, at Springfield Missouri. At his time of death, he had lived in Barton County Missouri for eight years. He was a retired oil driller. He married Mayme Montgomery in 1919 and they had two sons and one daughter. He died suddenly while mowing his lawn April 20, 1979. He is buried in the Liberal City Cemetery. He and his wife Mayme died very soon after one another. I have discovered that this side of my family does not speak of family past very well. John's father is unknown and there is no written record of anything pertaining to his father. Also in my family tree book, it is written John Lee was in the First World War as a part of the Army and did an overseas service in France. Again my family does not talk much of the past I had no idea he was in the Army and in France in World War I.

Marilyn Cowan's mother **Anna Cecelia Goodman (1908-2003)**, was born November 2, 1908, at Fuller Kansas. She married John William Wilson on May 7, 1928, at Detroit Michigan. She was a homemaker, they had two daughters and one son. She died in May 2003 in Pittsburg Kansas at the age of 94. She is buried in Rosebank Cemetery in Mulberry Kansas. We know Anna was as "Nanny". I remember Nanny and Grandpa John's house as always being warm and cozy. And ironically at one point in my life, I actually lived in their house before I moved to Pittsburg with my "husband" and son.

Marilyn's father, **John William Wilson (1906-2000)**, was born July 29, 1906, in Curranville Kansas. He married Anna Cecelia Goodman May 7, 1928, at Detroit Michigan. They had three children, two daughters Patricia and my grandmother Mary Sue, and one son Robert. John was raised in Foxtown and lived in the same house from the time he was four years old. He worked as a machinist and tool and die maker as well as a coal miner and a farmer. I remember my Grandpa John as always being in his garden or outside doing something.

Bucky Cowan's parents, **Nellie Todd (1915-1992)**, was born June 30, 1915, in Hopkins County Kentucky. She lived her whole life in Kentucky. She married **Paul David Cowan (1908-1970)**, and they had two daughters and four sons. Nellie died March 16, 1992, in Henderson Kentucky, and Paul died November 22, 1970. They are both buried in Webster County Kentucky at the Zion Brick Church Cemetery in Slaughters Kentucky.

GENERATION FIVE

- Ala1a1. Nancy Jane Lilly (1882-1972)
- Ala1a2. William Samus Dobbs (1879-1940)

- Ala1b1. Louisa Augusta Pillukeit (1870-1951)
- Ala1b2. Frederick Carl Becker (1869-1927)

- Ala2a1. Louisa "Lula" Close (1881-1946)
- Ala2a2. John Hoskins Montgomery (1869-1944)

- Ala2b1. Ida Belle Milsap (1877-1946)
- Ala2b2. Unknown

- Alb1a1. Teresa Glasgow (1890-1972)
- Alb1a2. Henry Goodman (1888-1973)

- Alb1b1. Ethel Scott (1888-1973)
- Alb1b2. John Wilson (1880-1963)

- Alb2a1. Lillian E. Crowley (1895-1978)
- Alb2a2. Thomas Ferrell Todd (1888-1969)

- Alb2b1. Myrtle Owens (1885-1938)
- Alb2b2. George Washington Cowan (1878-1951)

My maternal great-great grandparents: **Nancy Jane Lilly (1882-1972)**, was born November 8, 1882, at Filley Nebraska. Her parents were Wilson and Eunice Lilly. She married **William Samus Dobbs (1879-1940)**, February 16, 1902, in Virginia, Nebraska. William was born March 10, 1879, in Nodaway County Missouri. Together they had three daughters, my great-grandmother Eunice and her sister Mildred and five sons, Lloyd, Joel, Elmer, Francis, and Schaeffer. Nancy was a member of the United Methodist Church, American Legion Auxiliary, Alcione Chapter 266 of the Order of the Eastern Star, all of McLouth.² William and Nancy Jane lived in the McLouth area for over fifty years. Nancy Jane died January 17, 1973, and William died January 2, 1965. They are both buried in McLouth Kansas.³

² Obituary Entry: Atchinson Daily Globe. Accessed October 20, 2016.

³ Obituary Entry: Topeka Daily Capital. Accessed October 20, 2016.

Louisa Augusta Pillukeit (1870-1951) and **Frederick Carl Becker (1869-1927)**, came to the United States August 24, 1893, from Gumbinen, East Prussia Germany. Louisa was born December 9, 1870, in Germany. Frederick was born September 15, 1869, in Kominten Ost-Preusjin, Deutschland. They were married December 26, 1891, in Alteressen, Deutschland. They became American citizens June 1906. They had more than a dozen children, some born in Germany and some born in the United States. Not all survived through childhood though as was typical for the time period. After arriving in the United States they settled in Leavenworth Kansas. Frederick was a member of Masonic Lodge No. 2 in Leavenworth, a member of Knights of Pythias, a member of Moose Lodge, a member of the workmen and worked as a coal miner. Louisa was a member of the Salem Congregational Church. They are both buried at the Mount Muncie Cemetery in Leavenworth Kansas.⁴

Mayme Valentine Montgomery's parents **Louisa "Lula" Close (1880-1946)** and **John Hoskins Montgomery (1869-1944)** were married September 29, 1896, in Kansas. They were divorced shortly after the birth of their daughter Mayme Valentine in 1898. Lula was married two more times prior to her death February 6, 1946, in Bartlesville Oklahoma. Lula is buried in the Dewey Cemetery in Dewey Oklahoma. John is still a mystery as he cannot be found at the time this paper has been written. More research is needed. Lula and Mayme lived both with her parents and John's parents in Quincy Kansas for a great portion of Mayme's childhood.

John Lee Nichols Sr.'s mother **Ida Belle Milsap (1877-1969)**, was born in Missouri January 8, 1877, and died in Bartlesville Oklahoma January 19, 1969. She married Manuel Couch in 1868 and they were farmers in Oklahoma. She had two daughters and an additional son with her husband Manuel. Ida is buried in Memorial Park Bartlesville Oklahoma.

My paternal great-great grandparents, **Teresa Glasgow (1890-1972)** and **Henry Goodman (1888-1973)** were married April 30, 1907, at the Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri. Teresa was born November 4, 1890, in Chicopee Kansas and Henry was born April 28, 1888, in Whitwell Tennessee. They had three

⁴ Obituary: Leavenworth Times Mon. 2-Apr-1951.

children. Henry worked as a miner and on the railroad for Kansas City Southern. Tessie died October 1, 1972, and Henry died October 8, 1973, both in Arma Kansas. They are also both buried at Highland Park Cemetery in Pittsburg Kansas.

Ethel Scott (1888-1973) and **John Wilson (1880-1963)** were married March 20, 1905, in Girard Kansas. They had five children. Both Ethel and John were both born in England, Ethel on September 21, 1888, in Kayo, County Durham, and John on November 22, 1880, in Cumberland. Ethel's family came to America in 1902 and settled in the Curranville neighborhood. Ethel's family immigrated through Ellis Island on October 28, 1904, arriving on a ship named the Baltic. She was sixteen when her family came to the United States with her last residence as West Stanley, County Durham, England.⁵ John's family came to America when he was four years old. John as an adult worked as a coal miner. Ethel died October 24, 1973, and John died November 19, 1963. They are both buried in Rosebank Cemetery in Mulberry Kansas.

Lillian E. Crowley (1895-1978) and **Thomas Ferrell Todd (1888-1969)** were married May 21, 1911, in Kentucky. Lillian was born June 16, 1895, and Ferrell was born June 22, 1888, both in Kentucky. Lillian and Ferrell lived their whole lives in Kentucky. Lillian died May 19, 1978, in Henderson Kentucky, and Ferrell died January 8, 1969, in Slaughters Kentucky. They are both buried at the Zion Brick Church Cemetery in Webster County Kentucky.

Myrtle "Mertie" Owens (1885-1938) and **George Washington Cowan (1878-1951)** were married September 18, 1902, in Webster County Kentucky. They also spent their entire lives in Kentucky. Mertie died March 20, 1938, in Hopkins County Kentucky and George died August 21, 1951, in Slaughters Kentucky. They are both buried at the Zion Brick Cemetery in Hopkins County Kentucky.

⁵ <http://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/passenger-details/czoxMjoiMTAzNjQ1MDQwMDZlLjls=/czo5OiJwYXNzZW5nZXliOw==>. (accessed November 10, 2016).

Census Findings:

While researching my family some interesting facts were discovered, and a few things that were not well known on either side of the family. In searching the census records for several generations on both sides of the family, my ancestors mostly stayed in relatively the same areas for several generations.

Generation 1: For this section, most of the information was found in Census records. My parents **Suzette Louise Nichols (1962-)** and **John David Cowan (1963-)** met while working at Gebhardt's Chicken Dinners in Mulberry Kansas in the late 1970s. Suzette lived in Liberal Missouri with her parents **Richard "Dick" Cleon Nichols (1927-1998)** and **Eunice "Becky" Louise Becker (1926-)**. John lived in Mulberry Kansas with his parents **Maurice "Bucky" Ray Cowan (1940-)** and **Mary Sue "Marilyn" Wilson (1940-)**. Suzette and John worked together and "dated" then I came along in May 1981. My parents married in February 1981 and honestly I do not know much other than that. My parents were divorced in 1984.

Generation Three: On the Cowan side my grandparents Bucky and Marilyn, could not be found in the census records as they were both born in 1940. Bucky was born in Henderson Kentucky and his family has lived in that area of Kentucky for many generations. My "Popi" joined the Marines directly after graduating high school in Kentucky. Marilyn lived in the Mulberry area her whole young life with her parents and brother and sister on a farm. My grandparents met while my grandfather was in the Marines in California. They were "pen pals" and fell in love and were married in 1960 in Arma Kansas. Luckily "Popi" did not get sent to Vietnam and they were able to move into the house they currently live in. They also have another son **James (1961-)** who has three daughters, my cousins.

On the Nichols side, my grandparents are quite older. Richard and Becky were married in Fayetteville Arkansas in 1947. They had four children **Connie Marie (1948-)**, **Richard Lee (1954-)**, Amy's mother Suzette, and **Renee Elaine (1966-)**. I have many cousins on this side of the family because of a number of siblings my mother has compared to my father. My grandfather Nichols was born

in Eureka Kansas and according to census records in 1930, he was in Copan Oklahoma.⁶ In 1940 he was in Quincy Kansas with his parents and siblings⁷. My grandmother Nichols was harder to find in census records, she lived with her grandparents at certain parts of her life. Grandma Nichols was born in Leavenworth Kansas in 1926, her given name in Eunice, she was named after her mother. She despises her name, so she goes by her middle name of Louise or a nickname of “Becky,” given to her because her maiden name is Becker. She is living but the last year has been rough on her, she is 90 and her memory is not the greatest. I would love to ask her so many questions about the past but she is unable to remember much.

Generation four: my great-grandparents is where the family story becomes a bit more interesting and frustrating to someone trying to find family history. The Nichols great-grandparents were **John Lee Nichols Senior (1895-1979)** and **Mayme Valentine Montgomery (1898-1979)**. They lived in Iantha Missouri and when they died they did so only a month apart. This set of ancestors were my grandpa Nichols’ parents. They had three children, **John Lee Nichols Jr. (1925-2010)**, **Mary Jane Nichols (1920-2008)**, and my grandfather Richard. According to census records both John and Mayme were in Quincy Kansas in 1940 and Copan Oklahoma in 1930.⁸ Neither one of them could be found in the 1920

⁶ HeritageQuest Online (http://search.ancestryheritagequest.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc=EBY568&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&indiv=1&db=1930usfedcen&gss=angsd&new=1&rank=1&msT=1&gsfn=Richard%20C&gsfn_x=0&gsln=Nichols&gsln_x=0&msbny=1927&msbny_ftp=Eureka.%20Greenwood.%20Kansas.%20USA&msbny=71780&msbny_PInfo=8%7C0%7C1652393%7C0%7C2%7C0%7C19%7C0%7C1228%7C71780%7C0%7C&MSAV=1&uidh=2d1&pcat=35&fh=0&h=95435222&recoff=&ml_rpos=1) “Nichols, Richard C (1930 U.S. Census)” (accessed 1 October 2016). Year: 1930; Census Place: Copan, Washington, Oklahoma; Roll: 1938; Page: 4A; Enumeration District: 0010; Image: 316.0; FHL microfilm: 2341672 Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1930. T626, 2,667 rolls.

⁷ HeritageQuestOnline(http://search.ancestryheritagequest.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc=EBY569&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&indiv=1&db=1940usfedcen&gss=angsd&new=1&rank=1&msT=1&gsfn=Richard%20C%20&gsfn_x=0&gsln=Nichols&gsln_x=0&msbny=1927&msbny_ftp=Eureka.%20Greenwood.%20Kansas.%20USA&msbny=71780&msbny_PInfo=8%7C0%7C1652393%7C0%7C2%7C0%7C19%7C0%7C1228%7C71780%7C0%7C&MSAV=1&uidh=2d1&pcat=35&fh=2&h=62274132&recoff=&ml_rpos=3) “Nichols Richard,C (1940 U.S. Census)” (accessed 1 October 2016). Year: 1940; Census Place: Quincy, Greenwood, Kansas; Roll: T627_1233; Page: 7B; Enumeration District: 37-18 Source Information Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. *Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1940. T627, 4,643 rolls.

⁸ HeritageQuestOnline (http://search.ancestryheritagequest.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc=EBY570&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&indiv=1&db=1940usfedcen&gss=angsd&new=1&rank=1&msT=1&gsfn=John%20Lee&gsfn_x=0&gsln=Nichols&gsln_x=0&msbny=1895&msbny_ftp=Missouri.%20USA&msbny=28&msbny_PInfo=5%7C0%7C1652393%7C0%7C2%7C0%7C28%7C0%7C0%7C0%7C0%7C0%7C&MSAV=1&uidh=2d1&pcat=35&fh=1&h=62274118&recoff=&ml_rpos=2) “Nichols, John Lee (1940 U.S. Census)” (accessed 1 October 2016) Year: 1940; Census Place: Quincy, Greenwood, Kansas; Roll: T627_1233; Page: 7B; Enumeration District: 37-18 Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. *Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1940. T627, 4,643 rolls.

My grandfather's siblings are Charles, Imojean, Bernice, Wanda, Nora, Mildred, Barbara, David, and Kenneth. This family was a rural family and always lived in rural parts of the three counties they moved between.

My great-grandparents on the Wilson side, Marilyn's parents were **John William Wilson (1906-2000)** and **Anna Cecilia Goodman (1908-2003)**. They were born in Southeast Kansas and both died in the same area. The Census records from 1910-1940 have them both in the Foxtown/Mulberry portion of Crawford County.¹³ John and Anna were married in Detroit Michigan in May 1928. They had three children, **Robert (1934-Deceased)**, **Patricia (1930-)**, and my grandmother Mary Sue. Actually, at one point I lived in their old farmhouse for a little over a year. My grandma Marilyn finally sold the house and land in 2015 and the house is no longer standing.

My great-grandparents Becker, Becky's parents lived primarily in Kansas. **Joseph Emery Becker (1904-1967)** and **Eunice Lilly Dobbs (1906-1997)** were married in September 1925. They had two children, my grandma Becky and her brother **Joseph Emery Becker Jr. (1928-2015)**. Eunice and Joseph were not married very long, and when they split the two children went to live with their grandparents on the Dobbs side. Both Eunice and Joseph remarried but remained for the most part in Kansas.

Generation Five: The more generations found in the Census records the more confusing my family became. Especially while researching the Kentucky family, it is a giant mess which hopefully I will be able to explain. Generation Five will start with John Lee Nichols Sr.'s mother, **Ida Belle Milsap**

ucky.%20USA&msbnp=20&msbnp_PInfo=5%7C0%7C1652393%7C0%7C2%7C0%7C20%7C0%7C0%7C0%7C0%7C&MSAV=1&uidh=2d1&pcat=35&fh=0&h=50082827&recoff=&ml_rpos=1) "Cowan, Paul David (1940 U.S. Census)" (accessed 20 September 2016). Year: 1940; Census Place: Hopkins, Kentucky; Roll: T627_1318; Page: 1A; Enumeration District: 54-23Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1940. T627, 4,643 rolls.

¹³HeritageQuestOnline

(http://search.ancestryheritagequest.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc=EBy575&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&indiv=1&db=1940usfedcen&gss=angsd&new=1&rank=1&msT=1&gsfn=John%20W&gsfn_x=0&gsln=Wilson&gsln_x=0&msbnp=1906&msbnp_ftp=Kansas.%20USA&msbnp=19&msbnp_PInfo=5%7C0%7C1652393%7C0%7C2%7C0%7C19%7C0%7C0%7C0%7C0%7C0%7C&MSAV=1&uidh=2d1&pcat=35&fh=7&h=64610528&recoff=&ml_rpos=8) "Wilson, John William (1940 U.S. Census)" (accessed 23 September 2016). Year: 1940; Census Place: Washington, Crawford, Kansas; Roll: T627_1227; Page: 3B; Enumeration District: 19-39Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1940. T627, 4,643 rolls.

Eunice Dobb's parents were **William Samus Dobbs (1879-1940)** and **Nancy Jane Lilly (1882-1972)**, married February 16, 1902. In 1900 they both were at Sherman, Nebraska and starting in 1910 the Census shows them at Union Kansas.²¹ The Dobbs lineage can be traced back to the time of Edward VI in England. Nancy Jane's parents were **Wilson Shannon Lilly (1842-1930)** and **Eunice W. Tripp (1850-1930)**. Wilson was born in Ohio, Eunice in New York and they were married in Michigan. The Tripp line ends with Eunice as I am still researching to find out her parent's names.

Much of the data in this section of the family story came from the Census records 1790-1940. The records were accessed through Heritage Quest Online through Pitt State's Library website. The Census are a great tool to search for ancestors and trace where your ancestors lived and the occupations they held and a whole slew of information depending on the year. The Census began almost as early as the United States was formed. The Census was used to trace population to apportion power and representation based on the population of the new states. It is held every ten years because the framers of the Constitution put it in the document itself that the Census would be every ten years by law.²² Every Census came with a new set of issues, leaders could not agree on what questions to ask and how the questions should be asked.

The expansion of the Census throughout the Nineteenth Century proved very helpful in my searches. The early Census did not give me much information about the women and children in the family being searched. Some alarming information was found, but not very surprising since a great deal of the family did live in the South. Slave owners were found in the 1830s North Carolina and Virginia. They were farmers, so it is not surprising but it really did break my heart to see that. The issue of slavery was a huge issue in the Census counts on whether to count the slaves or not.

²¹ Heritage Quest Online (http://search.ancestryheritagequest.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc=EBY583&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&indiv=1&db=1910USCenIndex&gss=angs-d&new=1&rank=1&msT=1&gsfn=William%20S&gsfn_x=0&gsln=Dobbs&gsln_x=0&msbdy=1879&msbpn_ftp=Kansas.%20USA&msbpn=19&msbpn_PInfo=5%7C0%7C1652393%7C0%7C2%7C0%7C19%7C0%7C0%7C0%7C0%7C0%7C&MSAV=1&uidh=2d1&pcat=35&fh=0&h=8000423&recoff=&ml_rpos=1) "Dobbs, William S (1910 U.S. Census)" (accessed 25 September 2016). Year: 1910; Census Place: Union, Jefferson, Kansas; Roll: T624_442; Page: 14B; Enumeration District: 0080; FHL microfilm: 1374455 Original data: Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910 (NARA microfilm publication T624, 1,178 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C. For details on the contents of the film numbers, visit the following NARA web page: [NARA](#).

²² Anderson, Margo J. *The American Census: A Social History*. (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. 2015), 9.

In chapter four of Anderson's book, the topic discusses the Industrial Revolution in America. As America followed Europe into the Industrial Age, American workers changed occupations from farming to more manufacturing and mining jobs. The Industrial Revolution also affected the Census itself as in 1890 machines were introduced to tabulate data as well as a better organizational system for the data.²³ The reason for Census taking also changed as American society changed. The Census became a way to monitor American society in many ways, not just for the reasons of "reapportionment." By the end of the Nineteenth Century, the Census grew leaps and bounds. The 1890 Census was not only important because the machines permanently replaced hand counts, but it was also the first census to do a complete survey of the American Indian population.²⁴ The Industrial Revolution changed the Census in many ways and the Twentieth Century brought more manufacturing to the forefront as wars became more mechanized.

My family context when it came to the American Industrial Revolution mostly stayed in the same areas as before industry took over. My family in the 1850s in Kentucky were mainly classified as farmers. It is not known what they farmed, but many owned their own farms. The Crowley family owned a farm as did the Todd family. The Crowley's owned a farm in Webster County and the Todd's ran a farm in Hopkin's County Kentucky. The Cowan and Owens families both worked on farms in the late 1800s also in Kentucky.

The Twentieth Century brought change, but not a whole lot when it came to my family. The family in Missouri and Kansas were not from farming families, so mining and oil drilling was prevalent on both the Nichols and Wilson sides of the family. The Kentucky family mostly stayed in farming with an occasional general laborer present. My great-grandfather John William Wilson (1906-2000) was a coal miner in 1930, as was his father John Wilson (1880-1963) from 1910-1930.²⁵ The Wilson's then

²³ Anderson, *The American Census* 2015, 86.

²⁴ Anderson, *The American Census* 2015, 105.

²⁵ Heritage Quest Online

(http://search.ancestryheritagequest.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc=EBy584&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&indiv=1&db=1930usfedcen&gss=angsd&new=1&rank=1&msT=1&gsfn=John%20W&gsfn_x=0&gsln=Wilson&gsln_x=0&msbdy=1906&msbpn_ftp=Kansas.%20USA&msbpn=19&msbpn_PInfo=5%7C0%7C1652393%7C0%7C2%7C0%7C19%7C0%7C0%7C0%7C0%7C0%7C&MSAV=1&uidh=2d1&pcat=35)

Though most of my immigrant ancestors immigrated prior to the Twentieth Century, the century saw an influx of immigration of great proportions. The 1920 Census was troubled because not only was it dealing with the problems following the Great War, but the huge amounts of immigrants in coming were going to affect the population of the entire country. The 1920 Census was extremely important because the large amounts of immigrants needed to be counted closely to correctly account for the population increase in the country.²⁸ Cities were growing as both immigrants and rural people flocked to cities looking for better work. Immigration quotas were put into effect to try to curb the amount of immigration from certain areas of the world.

The 1930 Census was forced to deal with what would become a huge economic nightmare for the entire decade. The 1930 Census was forced to deal with the unemployment problem and added the questions about employment and amount of time employed.²⁹ My ancestors who were found in the 1930 Census were employed at the time they completed the Census questionnaires. Again most were farmers or miners, but many by the 1940 Census many had changed occupations. In some ways possibly the Depression had an effect on them at one point in the 1930s.

Social History Findings

Claude S. Fischer's book *Made in America* is a study of the social history of America. Fischer examines how much or how little American social structure and culture changed over time. Fischer concentrates on several different areas, such as security, goods, groups, public spaces and mentality of American Social Culture. Volunteerism is what Fischer believes defines American culture. People control their own fate in making decisions in every aspect of social decisions.

Fischer begins with the idea of Security, or the ability to have food, shelter, and safety daily.³⁰ Security also meant security from death, disease and protection from each other. In my family history, there was not much violence but the older generations did have a shorter life expectancy. A few of my

²⁸ Anderson, *The American Census 2015*, 138.

²⁹ Anderson, *The American Census 2015*, 156.

³⁰ Fischer, Claude S. *Made in America: A Social History of American Culture and Character*. (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2010), 17.

ancestors had more than one marriage because of the death of a previous spouse. One example is **James Goodman (1863-Deceased)**, his wife **Annie Robson (Unknown)** died while starting a fire in her stove in her home. He later married a woman named Eleanor Worsley and moved to Oklahoma. Many instances were found in my family of infants not living more than a few months if even that long. The later generations had more of a chance of surviving through childhood and living longer as an adult thanks to better security of self.

A rather large section of Fischer's book concentrates on the way Americans formed different types of groups. Again Volunteerism appeared to be the most important aspect of whether to join or leave certain groups.³¹ People were given more independence when they were capable of choosing which groups to become a part of.

When it came to family groups, my family stayed rather close to one another, and rarely did anyone go very far. The Crowley's in Kentucky are a perfect example of this. From what could be found the family stayed close within three counties in Kentucky. Both Rolley and Squire owned farms and the family worked on these farms. The Todd family in Kentucky also remained close and worked on the family farm. Not to forget the Cowan and Owens families who kept marrying one another. It is not known exactly why they continued marrying one another, but one can speculate it had something to do with the property.

Another aspect that kept the family together in Kansas was in fact work. Many of my Kansas ancestors were coal miners, and as long as the mines were in operation they continued to stay in the same area. The coal mines also brought families together. Some of my ancestors who were miners had children who married each other and continued the mining tradition. The groups continued to grow as the families remained close in the area.

Another section in *Made in America* covers American mentality, more to the point bettering oneself. Building a strong character and all around self-improvement became an important process in

³¹ Fischer, *Made in America* 2010, 95.

American culture.³² For my ancestors, there was not much found on psychological disorders or substance abuse, but the family did better themselves through education. The Census records showed many ancestors with less than a fifth-grade education. As the generations progressed more people went to school longer, and this continues today as I am getting my graduate degree.

Century of Difference

Another book by Claude S. Fischer along with Michael Hout, *Century of Difference*, studies how America has changed in the hundred years between 1900-2000. This book is very statistically oriented with numbers and graphs representing the results of the studies. The sections that pertain to my family are education, immigration and work.

Continuing from the last section with education, this study shows the differing numbers of those who have a higher education in the late twentieth century opposed to those with very little education at the turn of the century at 1900. Fischer and Hout explain why education is so important and how education divides Americans. The divide is more prevalent now than it would have been for most of my ancestors. Many of the earlier ancestors had very little education, yet were perfectly capable of owning farms or being in the mining industry. Now they would not survive long in the “information age.”

Another issue Fischer and Hout cover is “Where Americans Came from.” The numbers of immigrants changed in the twentieth century as does where people are immigrating from. Immigration has been a “hot topic” in America for a very long time. From 1900-1920 most immigrants were English, German or Irish, but as the twentieth century progressed the ethnicity changed and therein lay the problem.³³ Immigration became socially charged and people protested against immigrants who were not English, Irish or German.

My ancestors who had immigrated were in fact either English, German or Irish. The reasons for immigrating to America are unknown, and for the Germans, that information may, in fact, be lost forever.

³² Fischer, *Made in America* 2010, 195.

³³ Fischer, Claude S. and Michael Hout. *Century of Difference: How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years*. (New York, NY: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 23.

My English immigrant ancestors came to Southeast Kansas to mine as that was the profession they had in England. More research is needed to find on all immigrants who came to America in the Nineteenth Century.

In chapter five Fischer and Hout cover how Americans worked. All aspects and differences from 1900-2000. Technology, certainly changed how Americans worked and opening up the workforce to women and closing the children off to focus on education changed the landscape of the American workforce greatly.³⁴ My ancestor's work did change in the twentieth century. Many in Kentucky stayed with farming, aside from a few who became general laborers at one point or another. The coal miners in Kansas moved to labor or farming once the mining businesses closed. In the early twentieth century, women were still housewives, but that also changed with time. My grandma Cowan is 76 years old and still works full-time as a cook. It is unknown how many of my female ancestors had occupations prior to grandparent's generation. Most men in my family were involved in a trade of some sort in the Twentieth Century. Whether it be mining, oil drilling or truck driving in the later years.

The Dobbs Story:

I mentioned earlier that the Dobbs family could be traced back to King Edward VI in England. My family tree book has a story written in it of this. Some of the information comes from the book *Lives of Distinguished Men of North Carolina*, by J.W. Peele (Raleigh 1898).

The Dobbs family can be traced back to **Sir Richard Dobbs**, a Yorkshireman who during the reign of Edward VI was Lord Mayor of London. For his service to the king, Richard was knighted. In 1596, Richard's nephew **John Dobbs** went to Ireland and served as a deputy to Sir Henry Dockwra, Lord Treasurer of Ireland for the Province of Ulster. John then married a woman named Margaret Dalway, a woman of wealth and distinction. The seat of this family was Dobbs Castle, County Antrim, Ulster Province.

³⁴ Fischer and Hout, *Century of Difference* 2006, 97.

In America, the family history begins with **Governor Arthur Dobbs**, born April 3, 1689, who was high sheriff of County Antrim. Arthur was also a Member of Parliament for Garrick. He was appointed engineer and surveyor general of Ireland by Sir Robert Walpole, and in 1753 was sent out by George II as Governor of the Colony of North Carolina. He took office at Newbern, November 1, 1754. Arthur adopted measures to conciliate the Native Americans. He made treaties with the Catawbas, and Cherokees, and to protect western North Carolina from attacks he built, armed and manned Fort Dobbs, on the south fork of the Yadkin. He encouraged learning in his colony, as well as setting up courts of justice where none had been before.

When Arthur came to North Carolina, the Colony contained nine thousand inhabitants, but after his eleven-year service as governor, there were forty-five thousand living in North Carolina. Arthur brought many of his relatives to North Carolina, this is a reason to which he was charged with Nepotism. In 1765, he resigned his office to return to England and defend himself in the Court of George II, his friend, and patron. However, George II died in 1760, and Arthur himself died at the age of 82 years before he could get his affairs in order and sail back to England.

Arthur had a son, **Chesley Dobbs**, with his wife Ann. Ann was the daughter of Captain Osborn of Timahoe, County Kildare Ireland. Chesley is stated to have served seven years in the Revolutionary Army and later settled in Tennessee. Chesley had a son **Joel Dobbs**, born in Buncombe County, North Carolina. Joel married **Sallie Morgan**. Sallie was closely related to General John Morgan, the raider of Civil War fame. Joel and Sally moved to Casey County, Kentucky where their son **Russell Lane Dobbs** was born, November 18, 1817.

Russell at the age of 19 married **Susan Orlena Hurst** of Green Castle, Indiana. Susan died in 1839 and Russell then married **Cynthia Ann Hurst**, no relation to Susan. Russell and Cynthia had nine children one being **Joel Dobbs**. Russell moved his family Indiana to Andrew County, Missouri in 1846. Russell died at the age of 74 years old August 16, 1891. At the time of Russell's death, he had sixty grandchildren and 161 great-grandchildren.

Russell and Cynthia's son Joel married **Alice Elizabeth Perkins** in 1872 and they had seven children. One of those children, **William Samus Dobbs**. William married **Nancy Jane Lilly** and they had ten children, one being my great-grandmother **Eunice Dobbs**. William was known as "Billie," and when he and Nancy were married he was working at Tate, Nebraska for the "Dobbs Grain Company." In 1909, "Billie" and Jane moved to McLouth, Kansas. Billie and his brother Elmer owned and operated a grocery store for two years. In 1918, during the First World War, Billie helped his father in the elevator and flour mill. In 1946, Billie was appointed "Justice of the Peace" for McLouth. He performed his first marriage ceremony, which happened to be for one of his granddaughters.

This is the Dobbs family story as it pertains to my family. I found it to be very interesting and I plan to do more research especially on the Revolutionary Army member Chelsey.

My English Heritage:

Finding out how many of my ancestors came from England excited me. I have loved studying British history for awhile now, and when I found out a lot of my heritage is actually English it started to make sense to me. I have been researching the places my ancestors came from, and it makes sense why they came to Southeast Kansas. The areas my family came from are rural and rich in mining, so coming to this rural mining area was a new opportunity for them.

My ancestors came from the north of England, mostly County Durham and Cumberland. The mining town of Easington in County Durham is one such place my ancestors came from. Easington was a great mining town in the past but my research has found it is no longer a great place to live. Once the mines closed Easington became the most unemployed place in Great Britain.³⁵ The villages of West Kyo and Stanley are other mining centers of County Durham where my ancestors lived. West Kyo is near Stanley and the name "Kyo" is an old word for cow. This village, like Easington, too saw a downturn once the coal mines were closed in the twentieth century.³⁶ The area of Stanley at one time was a large

³⁵Wikipedia. "Easington." Accessed: November 21, 2016. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easington,_County_Durham

³⁶Wikipedia. "West Kyo County Durham." Accessed: November 21, 2016. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Kyo

city divided into three different sections. The area by the name of Stanley can be traced to the year 1211, with some Roman ruins being found.³⁷ Again mining was the main economy source for this area, and once mining faded, so has the area. Stanley is now a smaller version of what it was in the past. Unemployment is high, now the economy depends on shopping centers and chain stores to keep the city alive.

The port of Whitehaven in Cumberland is another area where my ancestors were settled. Unlike the areas in Durham, Whitehaven has a better outlook as it is still a port in the north of England. Tobacco and mining were the main commodities to which gave Whitehaven it's prosperity.³⁸ Mining in Whitehaven began in the 1500s and was stopped in 1848, there is still evidence of the mines standing today. Most of the mines in the north have had their share of disasters, and the mines my ancestors worked in were no exception. I have always wanted to visit England and in researching where my ancestors have lived I have now added several more places to my lists of places to visit when that time comes.

My German Heritage

I was hoping to learn a lot about my German ancestors, but I am afraid all is lost in understanding where they came from. My German descendents came from East Prussia, and that area has been a part of an area fought over for many years. My great great-grandparents immigrated from a place called Gumbinnen in 1893. They were married in Alteressen, and my great great-grandfather was born in a plack known as Kominten. As I researched these places, I wanted to find so much more, but unfortunately these places are a part of Russia and most German records were destroyed.

The area of Gumbinnen, was part of the Lithuanian area of East Prussia. Now the area is known as Gusev in the Kaliningrad Oblast part of Russia.³⁹ My ancestors came to America in a time in history when the area they lived in was under great distress, and I can only assume this is why they immigrated.

³⁷ Wikipedia. "Stanley County Durham." Accessed: November 21, 2016. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanley,_County_Durham

³⁸ Wikipedia. "Whitehaven Cumberland." Accessed: November 21, 2016. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whitehaven>

³⁹ Wikipedia. "Gumbinnen East Prussia." Accessed: November 21, 2016. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gusev,_Kaliningrad_Oblast

