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Jarrett Robertson Family History

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The Family History of

Jarrett L. Robertson

17 April 2017

Jarrett L. Robertson authored this family history as part of the course requirements for HIST 550/700 Your Family in History offered online in Spring 2017 and was submitted to the Pittsburgh State University [Digital Commons](#). Please contact the author directly with any questions or comments: jrobertson@gus.pittstate.edu.

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Generation One

Jarrett Levi Robertson (1993-) was born in Lawrence Memorial Hospital in Lawrence, KS, in February 1993 to **Roger Robertson (1963-)** and **Dana Robertson (1964-)**. Jarrett was born a few weeks prior than expected, which ironically with his one sibling **Brock Kylie Robertson (1989-2016)** being born a few weeks later than expected. While Jarrett was born on February 10, 1993 (2/10), his brother Brock was born October 2, 1989 (10/2).

Baldwin City, KS is a pretty small town where the history of the Robertson's is focused around. It is full of such rich history including a path way of the Santa Fe Trail, Signal Oak Ridge which was used Pre - Civil War, and currently used as a hangout for High School kids that have nothing else better to do, however the view is breath taking and one of most people who encounter it in their lives most memorable spots.

Baldwin City is mostly recognized for Baker University or "that small town just south of Lawrence." According to Wikipedia, the census from 2000 indicates that the population was roughly 3,400, and in 2010 the census indicates that it grew to just over 4,500.¹ Which would surprise some people that the number is not larger in 2010. Growing up in Baldwin, it always seemed to be growing as well as expanding. The city has begun to take advantage of its historical landmarks/features in terms of obtaining profits via tours all around the city. Overall it is a wonderful city to grow up in, and even just explore for a day.

Both of Jarrett's parents spent their lives in Baldwin City, KS, and while his parents, just as most parents do, debated on a different location for their children to grow up, they ultimately decided that Baldwin City was the right choice. However, when Jarrett was a baby his father got an opportunity to transfer within his occupation down to Fort Worth, TX. His family decided to move down and take advantage of such an opportunity, they spent roughly three years in Fort Worth and

¹ Wikipedia. "Baldwin City, Kansas." Accessed on January 25, 2017.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baldwin_City,_Kansas.

would eventually move back to Kansas. When the family returned to Kansas, Jarrett's parents were set on the fact that he and his brother would attend school in Baldwin City, regardless of where they lived. At first when they returned to Kansas they moved into an apartment in Overland Park, and eventually into a rental duplex in Baldwin City. After his grandparents built a new home, the family moved into his grandparent's old house and remained there until 2004 when they moved in to what would become known as Jarrett's childhood home at 1039 Firetree Ave, in Baldwin City, KS.

Jarrett started school in Baldwin in the 1st grade in 1999 and would continue to attend Baldwin schools until he graduated in 2011. During his time in Baldwin Jarrett experienced a rather joyful and easy going childhood into his teenage years. It was the time of friendships with neighborhood children that made his life so enjoyable. He would spend his days in the classroom just anxious to get out and go see friends to go jump on the trampoline with, or ride bikes around their small town together. Jarrett and his brother were just two of the regular kids in the neighborhood crowd that anybody driving through the neighborhood would see playing catch, or riding bikes, or jumping on the trampolines, or see a pile of bikes laid out in front of one of the houses while the kids would be playing video games on days that were just too hot, or too cold.

It was during the times of running around the Firetree neighborhood that Jarrett would meet other kids, some would only be a part of his life for a number of years, while a small few would become a part of his life for years to come. Two in particular became co-workers at the local McDonalds with Jarrett, and one of those would eventually follow him to Pittsburg State University and become fraternity brothers as well as lifetime friends, his name was Bobby Gill.

While Jarrett enjoyed being social and making new friends any chance he could get, he was always very close to his family and attempted to spend as much time with them as possible. His family raised him to become a big fan of sports. His interests in sports included baseball, basketball, football, and tennis. Jarrett spent his childhood playing basketball in the Fall and Winter seasons, and baseball in the Summers. His father volunteered to coach his team every year and they never

had a disappointing season in terms of winning. Jarrett looked forward to those summers growing up, always plotting with his father on which players from his class he should try and draft for their teams. Both he and his father were very competitive people and they always remained aggressive throughout every season. Their aggressiveness paid off because they had only one losing season in all the years they had a team.

At the beginning of their last baseball season together, one day after practice Jarrett and his father went to get dinner at the McDonalds just down the street from their home, while they were eating a manager walked by and asked “Well, aren’t you just a handsome one, are you looking for a job by chance?” Without a chance to answer for himself, his father answered, “He sure is!” A few days later Jarrett took up his start of employment at the age of 14 at McDonalds in Baldwin City, KS. He would come to work for his first shift to discover that another friend from his same class had also been lured into the same job, he name was Shaleia. Jarrett and Shaleia worked together all of high school and grew to become very close friends. It was during this time that Jarrett started to grow as a person and learn what it was like to have to actually work for a living, as his parents intended for him at a young age.

Jarrett and Shaleia’s friendship blossomed out of just McDonalds and High School, while Shaleia had been to numerous concerts and festivals, she went with him to his first ever concert to go see Linkin Park their junior year of high school. When Shaleia turned 18 before Jarrett, she was offered a manager spot, which she would eventually turn down, which left a crease for Jarrett to squeeze into and take that promotion at the age of 17.

In Figure 5.11 “Real Purchasing Power of the Minimum Wage, by Year,” of their book, *Century of Difference: How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years*, authors Fisher and Hout lay out the organization for the working American and their wages. They layout the true value of the dollar in the United States and compare it to working wages suitable enough for a minimum

wage from the American worker starting in 1930 up to 2000. They explain the struggle of working so many hours in a week for a constant minimum wage for years and it does not produce a great amount for the individual to move up with, especially the lower class. They explain the difficulty in retirement on with a job with such a low pay rate.²

Both Jarrett and Shaleia worked for minimum wage all 4 years of high school. They understood, however, that it was a job for students just trying to get by. However, they became activist for a small time in terms of asking why those who work so long for a company never see that minimum wage go up. The only time the two ever saw raises in their 4 years for the same company was when the minimum wage would be raised in accordance to state law. When Jarrett was promoted, his raise went up by .25. It was when the two went off to college, Jarrett to Pittsburg State University in KS, and Shaleia to California, that they started to understand the meaning of true work and labor, as a job while in school is a luxury, not a necessity, and any income while obtaining a degree would not go wasted.

Jarrett would go on to graduate from Baldwin High School in May of 2011. Throughout his senior year he debated what he wanted to do following high school, when he realized his grades were just decent enough to get into some Universities in Kansas, he applied at Emporia State University with aspirations of becoming a teacher, and he also applied at Pittsburg State University with the ambition to major in Psychology. He was accepted into both Universities, and would decide late in his senior year that he would attend Pittsburg State University. During his first semester in college Jarrett joined a Fraternity, Sigma Tau Gamma, and was fortunate enough to be a student during the 2011 season when the University's football team would go on to win a National Championship.

² Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference: How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 120-21.

His first year in college brought out many new life experiences and most importantly, a brand new band of friends along with them. During his first semester in Pittsburg Jarrett's father called him in October one evening to inform him that his company in Lenexa was shutting down and that he would no longer have a job lined up in the near future. Upon receiving that news Jarrett immediately began to start packing a bag for the weekend to go home and spend with his family, until a friend of his knocked on his door randomly while roaming through the dorms. When Jarrett went to answer the door he was nearly done packing and his friend, Garrett, grew concerned and insisted that he stay for the weekend. The quote that Jarrett can remember that eventually convinced him to stay, from Garrett was, "Don't worry, son, it's gonna be a good night." That night turned into Jarrett's fondest memory of his freshmen year at college as his friend had him out all night meeting new friends, jumping from house parties to house parties. When the night seemed to be coming to an end, Garrett would somehow find something else for the two to get into. Eventually, Jarrett looked out the window while at a friend of his and Garrett's to realize the sun was rising, at which point the two decided that it would be best to call it a night and head back to the Fraternity and see who might possibly still be up. Only to come to find that the only people awake were those that had just woken up to go to work. Jarrett and Garrett both made the decision to head back home and call the night a success.

While that memorable night went on to make Jarrett much more relaxed for the time being, it was a few months later that Jarrett received yet another call being told his father had just had a heart attack. It was after this call that started to really start to put some stress on Jarrett in terms of what he should do. He decided to finish out school that semester and see where his family would be at that point. His father would later be offered to transfer back to the same plant in Fort Worth, TX where he had worked before when Jarrett and his brother were younger. During the transition period Jarrett's mother decided to stay in Baldwin and work while they attempted to sell their house on Firetree Ave.

It was during this semester that Jarrett's childhood friend, Bobby, would start attending Pittsburg State University. However, on November 7th, 2012 at 9:30am as Jarrett sat in a "World Religions" class taught by Dr. Don Viney, he hit the realization of the level of his current grades as well as the stress level due to his family situation, and made the decision at that time that he would drop out of college and be with his family.

When Jarrett returned home that same evening after being in Dr. Viney's class, his mother could not help but show some disappointment, while also thankful for her son to be doing what he thought was best for himself. After being back in Baldwin for a week, Jarrett applied for local jobs in both Lawrence and Baldwin City. After just two days he was offered a management job at a fast food joint in Lawrence, KS as well as being offered a management job at a brand new restaurant in Baldwin City with decent pay as well as an opportunity to be creative. He started working at Antouncci's Italian Restaurant in Baldwin City as an assistant manager just two weeks after dropping out of college at the age of 19.

After just over three months of working at Antouncci's Jarrett's father had mentioned job opportunities for his company down in Fort Worth. On February 10th, 2013 Jarrett made his first trip back to Pittsburg since dropping out of school to spend his 20th birthday with his college friends. When he returned home he came to a realization that he would be better off spending some time with his father again and working for him as well. In March of 2013 Jarrett moved down to Fort Worth, TX and started working for Amcor Rigid Plastics with his father. His family was still not able to get their house sold in Kansas after a year and during his time in Texas it was just Jarrett and his father. In April of 2013, Jarrett made the decision to enroll back into Pittsburg State University to finish what he started, this time he would enroll as a History major.

Upon his arrival back to Pittsburg Jarrett obtained a job at another restaurant, "Chatter's" in which he would work for a short time, such a trend followed for another restaurant, "Del Rio," of which at both restaurants he worked for less than 4 months each. Jarrett moved back into the Sigma

Tau Gamma house initially when returning to Pittsburg where he lived at for his first year back, then moving into a house off campus with some of his Fraternity brothers at 804 S. Smelter. Jarrett lived here for the next two plus years.

During the summer of 2014 Jarrett found himself troubled with the idea of paying off such a large amount of student loans that he had already accumulated, and knew he would continue to accumulate for the next couple of years. He found an answer in enlisting into the Kansas Army National Guard in September of 2014. Jarrett enlisted as a Private First Class as a 92Y (a supply specialist). On January 5th, 2015 Jarrett shipped off for Basic Combat Training (BCT) where he would go to meet even more people and create more friends of all ages. BCT was a life changing experience for Jarrett, as it is for most soldiers that enlist into the military. However, Jarrett got into the best shape of his life, and upon returning home from training he constantly received comments about how his attitude towards life had defiantly changed. Just after two months of being home from training Jarrett was handed off to his unit which was also located in Pittsburg, KS.

In January of 2016 Jarrett started working at another restaurant that had recently opened in Pittsburg, "Buffalo Wild Wings," where he met the love of his life, Hayleigh Psota, who was a server at the time they worked together. Hayleigh was the most positive impact in Jarrett's life, the two of them fell for each other very quickly, and after just 2 months of being together they had already met each other's families.

When Jarrett was 6 years old his family discovered that Brock was diagnosed with aplastic anemia who was 9 years old at the time. His family was able to get Brock treatment throughout his childhood. Brock was able to live a happy healthy life while growing up. However, in April of 2016 Brock was diagnosed with Leukemia and after fighting it along with other attempts, Brock passed away in August of 2016 with his friends and family by his side at the University Of Kansas Hospital in the SICU. Brock had been married for almost a year before he passed to Kelly Hoehn. Brock and

Kelly had been together since they were freshmen in high school, and because of this Kelly had become like a big sister to Jarrett.

Losing his older brother to cancer was damaging to Jarrett at this time in his life. His family coped with it very strongly. Jarrett reluctantly returned to school to finish out that semester after losing Brock, but only took a small number of courses which set his graduation date back even further. However, life would go on for Jarrett as well as his parents and his sister-in-law, while mourning none the less.

Generation Two

A1a. Roger Dean Robertson (1963-)

A1b. Dana Robertson (1964-)

Roger Robertson was born on August 21st, 1963 in Lawrence, KS to **John Robertson (1935-2001)** and **Mary Lee Kneedler (1941-2009)**. Roger was the first baby that Dr. Jones had brought into the world, later, Dr. Jones would become the Robertson family doctor as well as the town family doctor for the city of Baldwin. Roger was the third of three children that John and Mary had, his siblings are Janet (Robertson) Pape, and Steve Robertson. Roger and his siblings all grew up in Baldwin City.

Roger grew up playing all types of sports, just like his brother and his father before him. He played baseball, ran track, played tennis, and was notorious for playing football for years. His summers consisted of playing baseball and camping at the lake with friends and family. John went through a number of boats during the years of camping and taking Roger and his siblings as well as their friends out whatever chance they could get. One of Roger's closest friends growing up was his cousin Mike Roller, who was John's sister's son that was the same age range as Roger.

In high school Roger played on both offense and defense in football, on offense he played as a right tackle and played on the defensive line. During one season he and his brother, Steve, played right next to each other as they both started on the offensive line. The next season he started on the defensive line playing alongside his soon to be brother-in-law, Kurt Mayhugh as they also became good friends prior to Roger dating Kurt's little sister.

During the summers while Roger was in high school he worked with his dad and others painting houses, roofing houses, building fences, and throwing hay. After graduating high school in 1981 Roger started working for his other soon to be brother-in-law, Roger Mayhugh at "Kansas Color Press" which would soon shut down not long after starting working there. From "Kansas Color Press" Roger continued working with Roger building fences, and in 1983 he moved on to

what would turn into his eventual career. Roger took a job with “Hoover Universal” the name of the company would change a couple more times to “Johnson Controls,” “Shmalbalch Leubecka,” then changing to the name it is still currently under today, “Amcors Rigid Plastics.”

Roger moved to Lawrence, KS in 1985 until 1997 when he moved his family to Fort Worth, TX to work still for “Amcors Rigid Plastic.” In 1997 he moved his family back to Baldwin to continue to work for them until their branch in Lenexa would close down and Roger and his wife, Dana, moved back down to Fort Worth in 2013.

Dana (Mayhugh) Robertson was born on November 16, 1964 in Lawrence, KS to **Frank John Mayhugh (1919-1990)** and **Patricia Ackley Tunget Mayhugh (Wise) (1929-)**. She was also the youngest of her siblings, of which she had five. From her mother’s previous marriage she had two brothers, Sunny Tunget and Sam Tunget, and one sister, Sharon (Tunget) Coup, all three are deceased. Her other two siblings from Frank and Pat are Roger Mayhugh and Kurt Mayhugh.

Dana grew up in Baldwin City and was constantly surrounded by her large family. Her memories involve weekend dinners where her mother would cook a large dinner for her family, including all of her siblings, their children, her aunts and uncles and other relatives. She recalls once a week as their family time they would go to dinner at “Griff’s Restaurant” that was a Dine-In as well as a grocery store in Baldwin City at the time.

In middle school Dana was a cheerleader for every sports team the school had. She remembers her and her friends going after school to “Audrey’s Restaurant” before going back to the school to cheer during the games. In high school she was on the drill team, while the same ritual occurred with her and her friends the restaurant location changed from “Audrey’s” to “Allen’s,” where she also worked serving tables part time while still in school. During high school she was also President of the Prep Club her junior year in 1981-1982. She also played volleyball while in high school, and graduated in 1983.

After high school she moved to Salina, KS to attend Brown Mackie College and was roommates with high school friend, as well as a cousin of Roger's, Amy (Gurly) Wright.

In 1981 after Roger had graduated high school, a mutual friend of Roger and Dana's convinced Roger to give Dana a call. That phone call blossomed into a relationship that is going stronger than ever to this very day. Roger attended Prom's with Dana during her junior and senior year. He had already befriended her closest siblings due to sports and work, and the two goof balls fell hard for each other. On August 10th, 1985 they got married at Ives Chapel in Baldwin City, a church that would come to be a pedestal in the family's future events.

On October 2nd, 1989 they had their first son, Brock, also born in Lawrence, KS, and in February 1993 their second son, Jarrett was born, creating the family they choose to raise. The two currently reside in Fort Worth, TX where Roger continues to work for "Amcor Rigid Plastics," and Dana works at "MSN News" in accounts payable.

In Figure 4.11 "Ideal and Actual Number of Births, by Year," Fischer and Hout lay out a comparison of what people from 1930 to 2000 would prefer in terms of size of families and babies, to what the average size actually turned out to be. Both numbers through the years tended to go down and ever since the late 1960's, when 75% of Americans thought 3 or more children would be ideal, in 1976 that percentage dropped to 39%, the trend has not since gone up. Reasons behind this could be based on farm life compared to city life and the ease of less children to take care of in a city as opposed to on a farm with more land. Also, religion and gender ideals play roles of what seems appropriate as well as a society norm.³

All four members of this family grew up in the same small town that was growing into a larger suburb. Both Roger and Dana worked in a bigger city about 35 miles from home, while

³ Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 89.

raising their children in Baldwin. Roger's sister had three children, and his brother had two. Dana was a part of a larger family, although three were not full siblings, but her siblings had on average about two to three children as well.

Roger and Dana's parents were raised with an average of four siblings, these trends followed along the ideals of country living for larger families and city living for smaller families, while religion had a very small part to do with the family size or values.

Generation Three

A1a1. John Deal Robertson (1935-2001)

A1a2. Mary Lee Kneedler (1941-2009)

A1b1. Frank John Mayhugh (1919-1990)

A1b2. Patricia Ackley Tunget Mayhugh Wise (1929-)

John Deal Robertson was born on July 25th, 1935 in Vinland, KS. He was the ninth of 12 children of **Ralph Robertson (1892-1967)** and **Beulah Adner Carpenter (1898-1976)**. John's siblings in order were, Leola (1916), Edith (1919), Gertrude (1922), Louise (1924), Forest "Frosty" (1926), Dale (1927), Cleta (1932), Grace, Alta (1938), Emma "Jane" (1940), and Dorothy "Dottie" (1945). When Dottie was born in 1945, Beulah had kept the pregnancy to herself and did it all on her own and had Dottie in a sort of secrecy.⁴

In 1954 John lost one of his sister in a tragic car accident. Grace and her husband along with their two kids as well as family friends all in a vehicle on the 4th of July in 1954 were struck by a drunk driver and all killed on impact. On the 4th of July in 2002 the second of the 11 siblings died on the holiday due to illness.

⁴ Jim McMullen, emailed to Jarrett Robertson, 21 April 2017.

John grew up in Vinland, KS the majority of his life and grew up playing and loving sports. As a father he was responsible for building the only baseball fields that existed in Baldwin for over 20 years, by himself. He also coached little league baseball, including his two sons, for 29 years.

After John graduated from Baldwin High School he went on to attend Emporia State University to play football, where he was also a fraternity man for Sigma Phi Epsilon. His time in Emporia was cut short when he was drafted by the Army and spent time in Germany.

When he returned home to Kansas John would go on to work a couple of different occupations. He was a ranger at Lone Star Lake in Kansas for a number of years while living in a small cabin. John was also a police officer in Baldwin for 3 years, as well as a U.S. postal serviceman for 26 years.

Mary Lee Kneedler was born on September 13th, 1941 in Stillwell, Oklahoma to **Wilbur Alfred Kneedler (1907-1978)** and **Beulah Bertha Smiley (1911-1987)**. She was primarily raised by her mother and her step father **Herb Williams**. Mary was one of 7 children to Wilbur and Beulah. She grew up in Oklahoma and moved to Baldwin when she was a teenager.

Her jobs during her adult life consisted of a large number of years at Hallmark Cards in Lawrence, KS. After retiring from Hallmark she worked at Target and then Checkers Grocery Store also in Lawrence. Mary grew up as a huge Kansas University Basketball fan as well as a fan of all local sports teams including the Kansas City Chiefs and Royals.

John and Mary got married on March 11th, 1961. On that day they made the decision to drive down to Miami, Oklahoma and elope. The reasoning behind their decision was due to Mary being pregnant with her first child, Janet, and they mutually agreed that they did not want a traditional marriage and since Mary was pregnant, it made all the more sense for the two to elope.⁵ John and Mary had a very happy life together while building a family along the way.

⁵ Jim McMullen, email to Jarrett Robertson, 21 April 2017.

During their marriage the family spent a lot of time together, including camping trips at the lake most weekends during the summer. Both John and Mary were involved in their grandchildren's lives including their extracurricular activities. In May of 2001, John passed away due to cancer, he is buried in Vinland at the Vinland Cemetery. Mary lived on her own for the next eight years, while still enjoying the company of her family as well as working to keep herself busy, at Checkers Grocery store in Lawrence. She would pass away in November of 2009, also due to cancer. She is buried right next to John in the Vinland Cemetery.

Frank John Mayhugh was born on January 11th, 1919 in Humboldt, KS to **William Hedrik Mayhugh (1881-1960)** and **Virginia Ann Hensley (1883-1965)**.⁶ He spent the majority of his life in Kansas. Frank was drafted into the Army during WWII and was shipped off to Japan to fight for the United States.

Patricia Ackley Tunget Mayhugh Wise was born on October 5th, 1929 in Parsons, KS to **Chauncey Ackley (1903-Deceased)** and **Opal Ackley (1905-Deceased)**.⁷ Pat grew up with 5 siblings, 2 of which were half siblings from Chauncey's previous marriage.⁸ She grew up in Kansas most of her life. She had her first three children, Sunny, Sam, and Sharon all with her first husband with the last name Tunget. This first husband was one that spent his days angry and exploited that anger on Pat throughout their marriage, he would end up mentally unstable and after being placed in a home he passed within a few years.

Pat, after outliving her first husband, would marry Frank Mayhugh in the late 1940s.⁹ After getting married Pat and Frank moved out to southern California in a desert area after the "Great Flood of 1951."¹⁰

⁶ United States Census, 1930. *FamilySearch*, Accessed 20 April, 2017. <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X7Q6-BJ3>.

⁷ United States Census, 1940. *FamilySearch*, Accessed 20 April, 2017. <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VRKX-HN6>.

⁸ Dana Robertson, email to Jarrett Robertson, 25 April 2017.

⁹ Dana Robertson, email to Jarrett Robertson, 25 April 2017.

¹⁰ Dana Robertson, email to Jarrett Robertson, 25 April 2017.

In July of 1951 the Kansas River as well as other bodies of water in the central United States, caused flooding to an extreme. The flooding was responsible for relocation of around 518,000 people as well as killing 17.¹¹

The two had three children together, Roger Mayhugh, Kurt Mayhugh, and Dana Mayhugh. When these three were younger their family was very close, tying in both Frank and Pat's sides of the family. Their activities together included dinners, shopping, and playing cards.

Frank passed away in 1990 and after he did the closeness of the families started to fade away. Pat would get married again for the third time in her life a few years later to Chuck Wise. In October of 2015 Chuck passed away due to illness as well.

In Figure 5.11 "Real Purchasing Power of the Minimum Wage, by Year," of their book, *Century of Difference: How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years*, authors Fisher and Hout lay out the reasoning for solo living. According to the chart, solo living rose substantially for women and more particularly, elderly women. The most dramatic change through the years was the solitary living of the widowed.¹² Pat has survived three husbands, as well as beating breast cancer in her life. Pat is still living to this day, she now lives in Lawrence, KS in an elderly home where she enjoys her day's playing cards and discussing life memories with the other tenants.

Both Pat and Mary have spent time living alone while being widowed, Pat has spent many more years doing so than Mary ever did, however it seemed to be more of a trend to honor their late husbands by surviving on their own.

¹¹ Wikipedia. "Great Flood of 1951." Accessed April 27, 2017. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Flood_of_1951.

¹² Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference: How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 84-86.

Generation Four

A1a1a. Ralph Robertson (1892-1967)

A1a1b. Beulah Adner Carpenter (1898-1976)

A1a2a. Wilbur Alfred Kneedler (1907-1978)

A1a2b. Beulah Bertha Smiley (1911-1987)

A1b1a. William Hedrik Mayhugh (1881-1960)

A1b1b. Virginia Ann Hensley (1883-1965)

A1b2a. Chauncey Ackley (1903-Deceased)

A1b2b. Opal Ackley (1905-Deceased)

Ralph Robertson was born on August 1st, 1892 near Rock Creek, KS to **Oscar Robert Robertson (1856-Deceased)** and **Sarah Jane Riley (1857-Deceased)**. He was the youngest of the four children to Oscar and Sarah.¹³

“In 1905 Oscar and Sarah, along with Ralph were in Leavenworth, KS. Oscar working as a horse trainer, Lee and Ralph working as day labors. In 1910 the three Robertson men were working as teamsters, driving supply wagons for Fort Leavenworth. By 1915 Oscar, Sarah and Ralph had moved back to the Rock Creek area and it’s there he met Beulah.

Beulah Adner Carpenter was born on September 26th, 1898 in Weatherby, Missouri to **John Marcus Carpenter (1868-1950)** and **Nannie Belle Stewart (1866-1906)**. Beulah was the second of three children to John and Nannie. John Marcus was a farmer in Weatherby along with his father, Lester. Around 1903 the family moved just outside of Valley Falls, Jefferson co, KS. Beulah’s mother Nannie died in December 1906 and is buried in Valley Falls. In 1909 John Marcs married Mary Higgins, a widow three years older than John with two children Harold and Elvena Higgins. Mary was born in Germany, her children were born in Kansas. From the stories Beulah told, Mary was not a nice person. She treated Beulah and her younger sister Gertie as if they were hired help instead of

¹³ United States Census, 1880. *FamilySearch*, Accessed 20 April, 2017.
<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MF5L-ZZS>.

family members. Gertie Velma was born in 1903 and died in 1912, is buried in Valley Falls. Beulah endured her step-mother's abuse for six years, until at the age of 16, she married Ralph in 1915. John Marcus and Mary moved to Orange co., California after 1930. John died August 29th, 1950 and is buried in Valley Falls, KS.

Ralph and Beulah were married in 1915 in Jefferson County, KS. Ralph's WWI draft registration dated 1917 lists him working for John Marcus as a farm laborer. Material is unclear if he and Beulah were living with the Carpenters or rented a house of their own at that time. Their first child, Leola Irene was born September 18th, 1916 in Rock Creek, KS. A few years later, plans were made to move the family to River Bend, Colorado. A second child, Edith Lucille was born March 8th, 1919 in Lawrence, KS and Ralph, his brother Lee and father Oscar set out with wagons loaded with the family's belongings for Colorado with Beulah and the girls to follow by train.

The Robertson's worked on a sheep ranch in Elbert County, Colorado. Life on a sheep ranch couldn't have been an easy life. While in Colorado the family grew with the additions of Gertrude (named Gertie after Beulah's sister. Later she had her name changed to Gertrude) in August 1922, Louise in 1925, Forest Ralph in April 1926 and Dale in November 1927. Stories of their time in Colorado were of winters with blizzards for days when you couldn't see more than a foot away. During the long winters they endured day after day of mutton stew to eat. Spring was time to move the flocks up to higher feeding grounds, they said the flocks were so large it looked like the whole mountain side was moving.

One of their favorite stories was the Christmas when Beulah's brother Clarence and Zella Carpenter came to visit. Clarence and Zella went to spend Christmas with Beulah and Ralph in 1925. Clarence was a train engineer for the Rock Island Railroad in Kansas City. A few days before Christmas a big storm dumped several feet of snow at their place. The men couldn't get out of the yard to even get a tree cut for Christmas. Aunt Zella wasn't going to let snow stop her Christmas so

she talked the men into putting a ladder up to the cottonwood tree in the yard and climbing up the icy tree to cut the top of it. After much cussing and complaining, they cut the top out and the ladies covered the limbs with green crape paper and put candles on the branches. Everyone said it was the prettiest tree they would ever have.

By 1930 the Robertson family had moved back to Wakarusa, KS. Grace was born in 1930 in Clinton. Shortly after, they moved to Vinland, KS. Ralph still was involved with trading horses and as a farm hand. Ralph was a small man and had a special talent with training and showing horses. Ralph chewed leaf tobacco and rolled his cigarettes. He was a jockey and raced trotting horses in his younger years. He would braid his horse's tails and manes with crepe paper roses Beulah would make, and show the horses at the Vinland Grange Fair. Other exhibitors would ask, "What do you think this is, The American Royal?"

The family continued to grow. Cleta Faye in 1932, John Deal in 1935, Alta Loraine in October 1938, Emma Jane in 1940, and Dorothy Maude in 1941. Leola would say, "With such a large family two things were always certain, there was always laundry to do and someone was always wanting to eat."

Beulah was of average height and sturdy build. Though she was abused in her childhood by her step-mother, and the strains of raising her large family during the depression, she was one of the most positive people. She never learned to drive a car. She never went to church without wearing a hat, and she never let anyone leave her house hungry. She had a knack of fixing a full meal in no time, while visiting with her company. She loved to tell stories of the family and sing, "Little Red Bird" and "Johnnie and His Sled" while rocking her grand-kids.

In 1965 Ralph and Beulah celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary at Ives Chapel Church in Baldwin City, KS. Ralph had seen his health decline from several strokes and died two years later in November, 1967. Beulah continued to live in her west Baldwin home and died at

home, from cancer, in April, 1976. Both Ralph and Beulah are buried in the Vinland Cemetery in Vinland, KS.”¹⁴

The Robertson’s, for Centuries, held remarkable and historical family events including, weddings, funerals, anniversary’s, and even simple get together at Ives Chapel church in Baldwin City, KS.

¹⁴ Jim McMullen, email to Jarrett Robertson, 21 April 2017.

Generation Five

A1a1a1. Oscar Robert Robertson (1856-Deceased)

A1a1a2. Sarah Jane Riley (1857-Deceased)

A1a1b1. John Marcus Carpenter (1868-1950)

A1a1b2. Nannie Belle Stewart (1866-1906)

A1a2a1. John William Kneedler (1875-1954)

A1a2a2. Myrtle Belle Clark (1881-1949)

A1a2b1. Arthur H. Smiley (1883-Deceased)

A1a2b2. Goldie (Born-Deceased)

A1b1a1. Leaban Dorsey Junior Mayhugh (1834-1925)

A1b1a2. Orra Tabitha Holland (1839-Deceased)

A1b1b1. John D. or Jack Hensley (1857-1936)¹⁵

A1b1b2. Loritha McForland (1860-1891)

A1b2a1. Eugene A Ackley (1866-Deceased)

A1b2a2. Myrtle E Ackley (1886-Deceased)

A1b2b1. Unk

A1b2b2. Unk

Extended Family Legends

“**Nathan Robertson (1752-1827)** was born to **Lloyd Robertson (1720-Deceased)** and **Jane Prather**. Born of Scottish ancestry, Nathan was descended from a branch of the Robertson clan that had immigrated to Maryland in early colonial days. He served for a time with Washington’s army in the Revolutionary War. He was converted to Methodism by Bishop Francis Asbury. At the age of twenty he married **Elizabeth Speakes (1754-1822)**. In 1787, when Nathan and his family left Maryland for the West, they had seven children. Their oldest boys, Robert and Middleton, aged fifteen and thirteen, were able to contribute man-sized work on the trek to

¹⁵ United States Census, 1910. *FamilySearch*. Accessed 20 April, 2017.
<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M2YH-XH5>.

Kentucky. The two youngest children were babies in arms, but the next three aged three to seven years, were considered old enough to walk part of the way and help themselves.

Arriving at last at their future home in Kentucky, Nathan Robertson's family settled on a farm in Bourbon Country for a stay of approximately ten years. Records of their activities while living there are comparatively meager. It is known that Nathan continued his active interest in religious worship throughout this period, and that he formed close friendships with such Methodist leaders as Moses Ashworth, Peter Cartwright, and Benjamin Larkin. One of Nathan's good friends was **Daniel Boone**, who gave him one of the famous Boone wolf traps. This trap, long prized as an heirloom by the Robertson family, has been seen in an attic by some of Nathan's great-great-grandchildren but which long ago disappeared.

In 1797, Nathan with his family, now of nine children, made the short trek from Bourbon Country, Kentucky, into Clark's Grant, in Indiana Territory, settling at a spot three miles north of what is now Charlestown, Indiana. The distance traveled this time was approximately 100 miles. A desirable location for a cabin was a site near a spring of running water, preferably coming from a cave. Nathan had such a site in the center of the best tract, 1,000 acres, in this section of the Territory. He built his cabin near the mouth of the cave, from which flowed, as it does today, a large stream of pure cold water. This cave proved useful as a refrigerator for keeping food. It is so used today. A blockhouse, or fort, was built atop the cave by Nathan as protection for his family and his neighbors against Indians. At least seventy-five of the old rails dating from this period are still used for a fence over the brow of the cave.

During the wars of 1811 and 1812, all of Nathan's children with their families and others fled to this blockhouse for safety and remained there for several months. The danger from hostile Indians was very real at this time. It was only thirty miles away that the "Pigeon Roost" Massacre occurred, the most vicious of all the massacres perpetrated in the Indiana Territory. Subsequent to

building his cabin and the blockhouse, Nathan laid out a family cemetery overlooking a beautiful valley. His building of the meeting house later to be known as “Bethel Church” has already been described.

Elizabeth Speakes in Frederick County, at the age 20. The 1776 Census shows that he was living in the Lower Potomac District of Frederick County, age 24. At the beginning of the American Revolution he signed the Oath of Fidelity and Support in Montgomery County, Maryland (which was once a part of Frederick County). In a 1780 list of the 1st Company in the Lower Battalion of Montgomery County the name of Nathan Robertson is included.

In 1787 Nathan Robertson and his older brother Robert immigrated to Kentucky with their families. They walked up the Shenandoah Valley, through the Cumberland Gap, and then by the Wilderness Road to Bourbon County, near Paris, Kentucky. The 700-miles journey required two months. One of their two pack horses died halfway. The Tuckers, from the same Hundred in Maryland, had preceded them, and the Robertson and Tucker families later intermarried.

In 1845 the Rev. Allen Wiley wrote in the *Western Christian Advocate*, the official periodical of the church: “When Brother Robertson talked of moving to Indiana, his friends endeavored to dissuade him from doing so; but the Preacher of the Circuit said, ‘Go, Brother Robertson, and the Lord will bless you and make you the means of raising up a church in the wilderness.’” We know that some of the preachers on the Salt Creek Circuit in Kentucky did cross the river and preached in Nathan’s cabin, which was in the center of his farm near a copious spring at the entrance to a small cave.

At the outset of the War of 1812—our Second War for Independence from Great Britain—Nathan Robertson built a blockhouse (small fort) where his married children and neighbors could take refuge from Indian allies of the English. Such refuges were constructed all along the frontier in southern Indiana. Nathan’s blockhouse was known as Robertson’s Station.

Nathan and Elizabeth Speakes Robertson had nine children, seven of whom were born in Maryland. Robert was born on August 28th, 1772, and married Susanna Jones.

On the night of September 4th, 1812, Jacob Trumbo brought his family to Middleton Robertson's cabin for safety. The men stood guard with their rifles all night, while the women and children hid in a thicket from Indian raiders reported to be in the vicinity. The next day they hurried to Nathan Robertson's blockhouse in adjoining Clark County. On that day-September 5- the Pigeon Roost settlement, some 30 miles west of Deputy in Scott County, was attacked by a dozen Indian raiders. They killed three men, five women and 16 children. It was the last major Indian atrocity in southern Indiana, as a volunteer units of Rangers were organized all the way across the Territory from incenses on the Wabash River to the Greenville Treaty Line, which had been established in 1795. The site of the Pigeon Roost Massacre is now an Indiana State Memorial.

Nathan Roberson died on March 19th, 1827, at the age of 86, at the homestead near Charlestown. Elizabeth Speakes Robertson had died there on December 21st, 1821."¹⁶

¹⁶ Jim McMullen, email to Jarrett Robertson, 21 April 2017.