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### Sims Family History

Kelly Sims

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The Family History of

Kelly L. Sims

30 April 2017

Kelly Sims 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 Pittsburg State University [Digital Commons](#). Please contact the author directly with any questions or comments: [ksims@gus.pittstate.edu](mailto:ksims@gus.pittstate.edu)

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## List of Direct Line Family Members

### Generation One

A1. Kelly Lynn Sims (1983- )

### Generation Two

A1a. Karen Joan Kiedaisch (1951- )

A1b. Michael Sims (1948- 2009)

### Generation Three

A1a1. Joan Louisa Wagner (1918-1977)

A1a2. Warren Irving Kiedaisch (xxxx-2004)

A1b1. Anna Ruth Jolly (1916-1999)

A1b2. Hank Sims (1894-1980)

### Generation Four

A1a1a. Jessie Johnson (xxxx-xxxx)

A1a1b. Harry Wagner (1889-1984)

A1a2a. Sigrid Maria Rehnstrom (1898-xxxx)

A1a2b. Frank William Kiedaisch (1893-1992)

### Generation Five

A1a2a1. Emma Rehnstrom (xxxx-xxxx)

A1a2a2. August Rehnstrom (1863-1956)

A1a2b1. Bertha Kasten (xxx-xxxx)

A1a2b2. William Kiedaisch (1856-1924)

### Generation Six

A1a2b1a. Hannah Kasten (xxxx-xxxx)

A1a2b1b. John Kasten (xxxx-xxxx)

A1a2b2a. Marie Kiedaisch (1849-1888)

A1a2b2b. Georg Kiedaisch (1843-1917)

## GENERATION ONE

Kelly L. Sims (1983- ) was born in Tampa, FL to Karen Kiedaisch (1951- ) and Michael Sims (1948- 2009). Kelly is the youngest of three children. During Kelly's early life she moved from Florida to Pittsburg, Kansas for a few months then on to Vermont. Kelly then moved to Illinois and back to Pittsburg, Kansas where Kelly has resided since 1987. Kelly attended First Christian Church in Pittsburg as a young child on a regular basis but more sporadically later in life. A teacher, that was also a church member started a pre-school. Kelly attended with other children from the church. Kelly has two vivid memories from her time at this pre-school. The first was learning how to cut an apple with a sharp knife and a graduation play where Kelly played Jill in the portrayal of Jack and Jill.

When Kelly was five years old her parents divorced. Kelly stayed and lived with her mother Karen and two siblings. From kindergarten to 3rd grade Kelly attended Lincoln Elementary School. In 4th grade Kelly and her mother moved out to the country to live with Karen's boyfriend and Kelly had to change schools and attended George Nettels Elementary for 4th and 5th grades. Kelly then attended Pittsburg Middle School and then on to Pittsburg High School. Kelly graduated from PHS in 2001. During the summers from t-ball to college Kelly played softball for the YMCA and Parks and Rec departments. During Kelly's school years she attended a daycare of a family friend and frequently went there even when she was too old for daycare. By then they were a part of her extended family and even stayed there on occasion. Growing up in a daycare setting led Kelly to pursue a degree in Early Childhood Education from Labette Community College, and graduated in 2005. Kelly has attended Pittsburg State University on and off with multiple degree changes during her life and is currently attending in pursuit of a Bachelor's degree in General Studies. Kelly is currently an instructor at a cosmetology school.

Kelly often visited family in area suburbs of Chicago where her Aunt and Grandparents lived. When visiting her Grandfather's she would play Wheel of Fortune on the computer and play the board game Mousetrap.

In Figure 7.3 "Distribution of Population Across Types of Places", Fischer and Hout show how "Americans moved from the countryside to the suburbs in one century". They explain that from 1900 to 2000 Americans moved from the countryside to more metropolitan area as well as immigration settled in more populated areas instead of the countryside.<sup>1</sup>

Kelly Sims lived in Plainfield, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, as a young child. Her mother's family settled in multiple suburbs and in the city of Chicago when they immigrated from Germany and Sweden. After the great Chicago fire the Kiedaisch and Rehnstrom families moved from the city of Chicago to the countryside and became blacksmiths and farmers. As the generations grew and time went on, family members started to move back into the city of Chicago for work and school. My family shows the

truth of Figure 7.3 as more and more opportunities arose in the city, they moved to have more opportunities that they could not get by staying in the countryside. However, with more recent generations they have moved back out of the city and into surrounding expanded suburbs.<sup>1</sup>

## GENERATION TWO

A1a. Karen Joan Kiedaisch (1951- )

A1b. Michael Sims (1948- 2009)

Karen Joan Kiedaisch was born in 1951 in Joliet, IL to Warren and Joan Kiedaisch. She is the middle of four children. Karen grew up in a suburb of Chicago on Lily Cache Road in Plainfield, IL. Karen led a small town neighborhood life as a child. She played with the neighborhood children in the large lot next to her house and skated on Lily Creek when it froze over. Growing up Karen lived next to the Jolly's. Bill and Maxine Jolly had six children and when Karen was older she babysat the younger children. In doing so, Karen met Michael who was a cousin to the Jolly's. Karen graduated from Plainfield High School and went on to attend Joliet Junior College. Later in life Karen attended Pittsburg State University and received a Bachelor's degree in Education 1992. Karen worked at Westar Energy from 1989-2015 when she retired. In doing so, Karen supported her three children and got her degree all while being a single mother.

Michael Sims was born in 1948 in Kansas City, MO to Anna Ruth Jolly and Hank Sims. Mike was a twin to his brother Patrick. Michael grew up in the Pittsburg/Frontenac area on a farm. Michael grew up playing baseball and golf and had aspirations of being an athletic trainer. Michael attended Pittsburg schools and graduated from Pittsburg high school. When Michael was 18 he signed himself and his brother Patrick, without Patrick's knowledge, up for the armed services. Both brothers served in the Vietnam war, Michael in the Air Force and Patrick in the Army. Michael made a career of it being a paratrooper and flight medic and then joined the Air Force reserves and National Guard. During his time in the armed services Michael went to many different countries but was never allowed to tell what they were doing there. Michael became an athletic trainer for minor league baseball teams which involved moving around a lot for spring training and regular seasons.

Michael was an avid smoker often tearing off the filters before smoking. This led to emphysema and COPD. Mike had the use of only part of one lung and doctors said it was like breathing through a coffee stir stick. Michael spent the last few years of his life in and out of hospitals but ultimately died from his condition in 2009.

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<sup>1</sup> Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 173.

Michael and Karen married in 1972 in Plainfield, IL, and had three children Scott M. Sims born in Houston, TX 1973, Erin E. Sims born in Joplin, MO 1977 and Kelly L. Sims born in Tampa, FL, 1983. Mike and Karen moved around a lot because of Mike's athletic training jobs and eventually resided in Pittsburg, KS, after Mike got out of baseball. Michael and Karen divorced in 1988 and Karen stayed in Pittsburg. Michael stayed in Pittsburg for a few years and eventually moved around a lot due to jobs and relationships. Mike was married 3 more times after Karen. Theresa was his latest wife to which he was still married to at the time of his death. Karen remarried once which ended in divorce.

### GENERATION THREE

A1a1. Joan Louisa Wagner (1918-1977)

A1a2. Warren Irving Kiedaisch (1916-2004)

A1b1. Anna Ruth Jolly (1916-1999)

A1b2. Hank Sims (1894-1980)

Kelly's maternal grandmother, Joan Louisa Wagner was born in 1918 and died in 1977. Since Joan died before Kelly was born she did not ever meet her maternal grandmother. Joan was a homemaker and raised four children.

Kelly's maternal grandfather, Warren Irving Kiedaisch was born in 1916 and died in 2004.<sup>2</sup> Warren grew up in Chicago, IL and went to Brookfield schools. Warren went to Northeastern Illinois University and was on the football team. Warren went on to work for Commonwealth Edison and Dresden Nuclear Power Plant. Warren was also part of the group of people to figure out what happened at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant mishap.<sup>3</sup> One of the fondest memories Kelly has of her maternal grandfather is hearing him sing Mairzy Doats and always walking around whistling. Warren was an avid golfer and was a skilled woodworker. He often took the grandkids to the Brookfield zoo where Kelly had an attachment to one of the walruses. Everytime Kelly would go to the walrus exhibit the walrus would follow her to any window she went to no matter how many people were there. When the walrus died, Warren sent the newspaper clipping about Olga the walrus.<sup>4</sup>

Kelly's paternal grandmother, Anna Ruth Jolly was born in 1916 and died in 1999. Anna had her name changed to Ruth Ann and throughout Kelly's life she was known as Grandma Ruth. Kelly spent a lot of time with her Grandma Ruth. Whenever it was

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<sup>2</sup> "United States Social Security Death Index," database. FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/J5JY-HYS : 20 May 2014>), WARREN I KIEDAISCH, 09 Nov 2004; citing U.S. Social Security Administration, Death Master File, database (Alexandria, Virginia: National Technical Information Service, ongoing).

<sup>3</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three\\_Mile\\_Island\\_accident](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three_Mile_Island_accident)

<sup>4</sup> [http://articles.chicagotribune.com/1988-08-15/news/8801220933\\_1\\_zoo-spokeswoman-zoo-officials-olga](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/1988-08-15/news/8801220933_1_zoo-spokeswoman-zoo-officials-olga)

Kelly's dad's visitation weekends but Michael was unable to get Kelly, she would spend that time with her Grandmother. Ruth lived in Pittsburg in an apartment complex and played skip-bo with the other ladies on the floor. When Kelly was little she was tough how to play from the ladies and soon starting winning almost all the hands. They joked that she wouldn't be able to play any longer. Ruth was also a member of First Christian Church and was the reason Kelly and Karen started attending. Ruth taught Kelly how to paint and take care her nails and often painted Kelly's nails which helped Kelly have a fondness to the cosmetology industry. When Kelly would visit Ruth they often watched Hee Haw and ate peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Whenever Kelly hears Conway Twitty she thinks of her Grandma Ruth. Ruth also often took Kelly and the other grandchildren to eat at Otto's. To this day Kelly orders grilled cheese at Otto's like she did as a child.

Kelly's paternal grandfather, Hank Sims born 1894 and died in 1980. Hank died before Kelly was born. The only thing Kelly has ever heard of her grandfather is that he had a hamburger food truck when Mike and Pat were children. He was much older that Ruth and it's said that they met in a bar. Hank is the last person in the paternal line that Kelly knows of to date.

#### GENERATION FOUR

A1a1a. Jessie Johnson (xxxx-xxxx)

A1a1b. Harry Wagner (1889-1984)

A1a2a. Sigrid Maria Rehnstrom (1898-xxxx)

A1a2b. Frank William Kiedaisch (1893-xxxx)

Generations four through six are all on the maternal side. Kelly's great grandma and great grandfather on her grandmother's lineage are Jessie Johnson and Harry Wagner. Kelly has no known information other than their names at this point and time. Kelly's great grandmother, Sigrid Rehnstrom was born in 1898 but it is unknown when she died. Sigrid was born in Chicago to Swedish immigrant parents. Sigrid's early life is unknown as she moved around a lot, but met Kelly's great grandfather as a child. Sigrid's father and Frank's grandfather were friends. They often socialized on the Kiedaisch farm.

Kelly's maternal great grandfather, Frank Kiedaisch was born in 1893 to Bertha and William and died in 1992. Frank was born Franz Wilhelm Kiedaisch but it was changed to Frank William. Frank's grandparents immigrated to Ironwood, IL, from Germany. Frank is one of ten children. When Frank was celebrating his 95th birthday it was suggested that Frank write a story about his life of 95 years. Frank obliged and dictated a book via tape recorder and his granddaughter Terri typed it and added the corresponding photos. A copy was made for each branch of the family and this is where most of the information in earlier generations comes from. Frank's book details what it was like growing up in Chicago and in the suburbs. He recants how inventions

and technology changed how they did things and how life was in the early 1900s through the 1990s. Frank was born his parents house in Chicago, IL. He was born the same year as the World's Columbian Exposition.<sup>5</sup>

## GENERATION FIVE

A1a2a1. Emma Rehnstrom (xxxx-xxxx)  
A1a2a2. August Rehnstrom (1863-1956)

A1a2b1. Bertha Kasten (xxx-xxxx)  
A1a2b2. William Kiedaisch (1856-1924)

## GENERATION SIX

A1a2b1a. Hannah Kasten (xxxx-xxxx)  
A1a2b1b. John Kasten (xxxx-xxxx)

A1a2b2a. Marie Kiedaisch (1849-1888)  
A1a2b2b. Georg Kiedaisch (1843-1917)

Hannah and John Kasten immigrated to Ironwood, IL, from Germany with 3 children. Once in Illinois they had 5 more children, one of which was Bertha. The family lived on a lumber yard and John was in charge.

Kelly's three times great grandparents are Marie and Georg Kiedaisch. The only information I have on Marie is that she was a homemaker. Georg Kiedaisch was a blacksmith in Chicago during the great Chicago fire in 1871.<sup>6</sup> After the fire destroyed his blacksmith Georg moved to the suburbs and set up his blacksmith shop on a farm.

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<sup>5</sup> *Chicago Eagle*. (Chicago [IL.]), 06 May, 1893. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <  
<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84025828/1893-05-06/ed-1/seq-6/> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. >  
[Accessed 15 February 2017].

<sup>6</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great\\_Chicago\\_Fire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Chicago_Fire)