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### Schifferdecker and George Family History

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**The Family History of**

**Nathan E. George**

**21 September 2017**

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## GENERATION ONE

**Nathan Edward George (1995- )** was born on January 3, 1995 in Joplin, Missouri. He was accompanied by his twin brother Nicholas. Nathan's parents, **Edward Leland George (1963- )** and **Nancy Ellen George (1965- )** had believed that the birth of their twin boys was to be near the end of January, causing them to be surprised at the early births. At first, Nathan was troubled with breathing issues, but after several exercises, he had been restored to his normal being. Soon after, the newborn family was able to return home in Duquesne, Missouri.

From the start, Nathan and his twin brother Nicholas were the best of friends, being inseparable. Before he could fully speak, Nathan was communicating with his brother through their own readings of one another's emotions and gestures. Later on, Nathan and Nicholas would develop their own games to play, as they shared one another's toys. In addition, Nathan shared everything from toys, a bed, and clothes with his twin brother. This taught Nathan the value of sharing and caring for his and his brother's belongings. As Nathan would grow up, he would develop similar interests as his brother did, participating in the same sports and activities.

At the age of three, Nathan moved from his first home in Duquesne, Missouri to a rural area near Hepler, Kansas. This was the result of Nathan's parents receiving employment at nearby locations. Nathan's new home opened many fun opportunities for him and his brother to explore outdoors. To further, Nathan could play within the timber, following the creeks that ran within the lands. Such explorative activities allowed for Nathan to witness the wildlife and surrounding ecosystem. Of course, Nathan had become interested in the local domestic animals, particularly being the herd of cows grazing in the pasture. At one point, **Nancy Ellen George (1965- )** had found that her boys had gone missing, as they had not returned from their exploration of the West pasture. Eventually, she realized that the entire herd of cattle was strangely trotting around in the pasture with two white shirts bravely chasing behind.

This goes to say that Nathan and his brother had wanted to pet the cows behind and house and therefore had left on a mission to chase the herd.<sup>1</sup>

Nathan also got to accompany his Grandpa Schifferdecker, as he would set out to feed the cows. With the mischievous attitudes combined, Nathan and his brother set out to drive their grandfather's truck as he was not present at the moment. When **John Schifferdecker (19- )** took to open the gate to the pasture, he witnessed his truck oddly driving in reverse, as it slowly made its way slowly into the nearby ditch. Shortly after, two little faces popped up within the view through the windshield. After the incident, it had been realized that Nathan and his brother Nicholas had worked together to move the parked vehicle, as one sibling lay on the floor to press the gas pedal while the other shifted the truck into gear. Overall, the relocation from urban to rural gave Nathan a greater number of activities to partake outdoors.

When Nathan was a kid, he loved to go different places outside of his family's farm. Specifically, Nathan enjoyed going to watch the Girard High School Trojans play their baseball and foot games. Usually his parents would take him to one game every season. On occasion, Nathan would see an older friend or relative playing in the sports game. In fact, Nathan saw his older cousin, Zach Lehman, hit a home run at that year's baseball game. It was safe to say that Nathan loved to watch the different sports games, especially with his brother Nicholas. Together, they would dream of someday experiencing the roar of the crowd, hitting home runs, and scoring touchdowns. Girard, KS was a small vibrant town that emphasized the involvement of groups, revolving around the schools. This helped Nathan to gain a better experience of his town's culture. Like Fischer's **Public spaces** Nathan was able to experience a small culture within his school system's activities.<sup>2</sup> Now as Nathan grew older, he began to participate in more than just the town's summer league baseball team. He and his brother began to travel all around in order to play in baseball tournaments. Every weekend was filled with the emotions and scents of baseball. It was at the baseball diamond where Nathan and his twin brother began to connect to a new love. Not only

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<sup>1</sup> Personal knowledge of the author, Nathan Edward George.

<sup>2</sup> Claude S. Fischer, *A Social History of American Culture and Character: Made in Aermica* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2010), 9.

had the past sports games inspired Nathan to love and play sports, but they also improved his social life among his peers.

After Nathan had gone through the preschool education programs, he entered into the 1<sup>st</sup> grade at R. V. H. Haderlein Elementary School in Girard, Kansas. The attendance of classes was not new for Nathan, but being in separate class was. This worked to stretch Nathan's young social life, as he had to develop new relationships in school. On the other hand, Nathan and his brother were still on the same sports teams, as they started their athletic careers in baseball and basketball. After being introduced to sports, Nathan became very intrigued, as he could play and compete against his twin brother. In addition, new friendships and hobbies were formed for Nathan, as he began to participate in elementary school and sports teams.

Other activities included Cub Scouts. This organization enabled the young boys to socialize while learning new skills to put to action in the wilderness. Specifically, Nathan was able to go camping with his pack. This was special because Nathan had not camped at a state park before with a group of his friends. The pack leaders taught Nathan and his member's survival skills, such as how to tie knots, start fires, and apply first aid. The educational opportunities taught Nathan a lot, as they even ventured into identifying the vegetation and wildlife. Ultimately, this experience brought Nathan new social skills and survival skills.

Nathan and his brother were able to correspond their success with sports to their relationship with their father. In other words, Nathan and his brother were able to bond through baseball with their father. **Edward Leland George (1963- )** aided the two youngsters, catching bullpens and throwing batting practice. During the machine pitch games, Nathan's father told him that for each home run he hit, he would receive an orange pop. This was uniquely special to Nathan, as he was not allowed to drink pop as a child, although his father habitually did so. To further, one particular game, Nathan and his twin brother had hit several homeruns, enabling for them to obtain multiple orange pops from their father. Overall, the

betting of home runs in exchange for sodas helped to bond the relationship between Nathan and his father while allowing him to enjoy a tasty beverage.

During the summer of 2005, Nathan experienced a new social atmosphere, as in the NYSP camp offered to elementary students in Pittsburg, Kansas. Here, Nathan was surrounded by peers his own age from local towns such as Frontenac and Pittsburg. This helped Nathan to increase his mental map, as he was able to explore the town of Pittsburg. Also, Nathan was lead through many educational activities that helped to improve the attendee's teamwork. For example, one activity consisted of Nathan and his friends constructing a carrier for a raw egg. The developed package would be dropped to test the absorption of impact. To summarize, the group that Nathan was in had turned out to be the only successful group, as their egg was the only to survive the drop. In the end, Nathan had learned new social skills, as well as gaining new knowledge of the surrounding region.

Hunting had always been in Nathan's life, although he had not participated until later. His father had practiced taxidermy, stuffing the animal's hides. Through this, Nathan became intrigued with the wild animals and their trophies. Ultimately, the experience of witnessing the sport from a young age taught Nathan to appreciate the sacrifice. After Nathan had shot his first buck, his father said a prayer, thanking God and the deer for the harvest. In admiration, Nathan learned new skills, gained hobbies, and furthered his relationship and bond with his father.

Like his mother, Nathan was taught to maneuver the family's tractors at a young age. His first experience was stacking hay bales with a spear. The most difficult task to overcome was the skill to drive a manual tractor. The combination of a heavy bale of hay on the back of the tractor, with a jumpy start added to Nathan popping multiple wheelies with the small blue tractor. Once Nathan mastered the clutch, his father had him raking the cut grass, using the blue tractor and its rakes. Nathan had not only learned to drive, but also was educated on the procedures to produce hay bales.



The middle school in Girard was located in a different building other than the R.V. H. Haderlein. To further, Nathan was to see new experiences, as he was to attend class in a new building alongside with the older children. To start, Nathan's school schedule moved him from room to room at the end of each period. In seventh grade, Nathan was able to play football for the first time. This sport called for a tough mentality. After several weeks of practice, Nathan had begun to learn the plays, as he was assigned to a specific position on offense and defense. Not only did he have to adapt the new sport, but also Nathan had to sustain the new social setting. For the first time, Nathan and his classmates were partaking in a school activity, alongside the older players. The experiences in middle school helped Nathan to become more adaptable to new settings and rules.

Before Nathan's first football game, he and a friend, Anthony Scholes, had encountered several of the opposing players, exchanging words. They had called Girard's football team a group of girls. In response, Anthony had replied with a vulgar comment, quieting the taunting enemy.<sup>3</sup> Of course, Nathan and his teammates suffered a hard loss, losing by nearly forty points. All that had mattered is that Nathan and his teammates learned the feeling of ultimate defeat. Despite the pain of losing, Nathan's football team was able to bond over their relations of the game.

Girard's United Methodist Church had inducted Nathan and his brother. Through this membership, Nathan gained a better understanding of the Methodist Church. Also, Nathan was able to relate to other peers through different hobbies, other than sports. Leadership skills were taught to Nathan, in order to make a difference, furthering the ideology of the Christian religion. This religious group helped to stimulate Nathan's interest, furthering his participation in the activities. Once, the youth group took a fun trip to an artificial ski park. Nathan attended the trip with several older boys. Nathan chose to embrace the snowboard for the day. This activity helped Nathan to understand and relate with the older participants, as they were took on the courses obstacles. This goes to say that amusement played a vital

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<sup>3</sup> Personal knowledge of the author, Nathan Edward George.

role in the evolving of the relationships because of the high number of wrecks seen among Nathan and his peers.

Throughout Nathan's experience of high school sports, he and his teammates learned to achieve success through hard work. In football, Girard slowly showed a growth of success, as Nathan and his class matured. By the senior year of Nathan's football season, Girard's team had gone on to have the most successful seasons in decades. To start, Nathan and his teammates began to meet after class, once baseball had ended in the spring. They conspired to hit the weight room, earning physical gains to better their future season. Once the summer began, the football team started lifting at full force. Each day, Nathan worked harder to fulfill the thought of winning rather than losing. By the end of the season, Nathan and his teammates had made history for small town football. Through their desire and will to finally becoming the deliverer of the plundering, Nathan and his teammates made many memories and set Girard's program apart for a moment.

Baseball was different for Nathan, as he had experienced winning seasons until his senior year. During this season, many actions and characteristics forced Girard's team to be unsuccessful. This goes to say several past players could not play because of previous sports injuries that they were tending to. Other past players sought other options like track, while some just followed suit and quit altogether. In the end, the team was made up of Nathan and his brother and the rest lower classmen. It was during this time that Nathan learned to take role as a leader and worked to teach the younger players tips and comforting advice. Although, times did get frustrating for Nathan and Nicholas as they experienced so many losses. Overall, Nathan learned to act as a role model and establish his actions as a leader, despite the unsuccessful season.

FFA molded Nathan into a better, more established being. This was through the education and practice of programs given by the FFA. Particularly, Nathan participated in Entomology or the study of insects. This interest predates back to Nathan's childhood experiences, seen after his family's relocation

to their farm near Hepler, Kansas. Nathan traveled to several different schools to compete in the competitions. During the events, Nathan was able to identify each insect for what it was called. Overall, the FFA helped Nathan to further his education, outside of what was taught in normal curriculum classes.

Once Nathan had obtained his diploma and graduated from Girard High School with honors, he enrolled at Pittsburg State University. At first, Nathan felt secluded, as he did not participate with any school events. Eventually, some old baseball friends gave rise to the idea of starting a club baseball team at the university. Soon enough, Nathan was back at it, playing competitive baseball again. The team ended their year, being very successful as they had been nationally ranked throughout the season.

Nathan had alternated between his majors for school. At first he was a biology major, then he transferred to history and geography. This was because he had a great interest into how both subjects differed and correlated to one another. Nathan was able to experience a great adventure. He was able to sign up for a study abroad trip, allowing him to travel to multiple European countries. For the majority, Nathan was able to spend time in Germany, gazing at the historical museums and symbolic memorials. To further, Nathan was able to distinguish prime differences between the Germanic culture and the broadness of the United States. Overall, Nathan found some habits intriguing while others not so much. For example, Nathan was not a fan of the carbonated water or the expense of a public restroom visit. All in all, this trip displayed many fascinating differences, distinguishing the European traditions from the American ones.

## GENERATION TWO

**A1a. Nancy E. George (1965- )**  
**A1b. Edward L. George (1961- )**

**Nancy Ellen Schifferdecker George (1965- )** was born on 9 June 1965 in Girard, KS to **Carol Anne Lehman Schifferdecker (1940- )** and **John Edwin Schifferdecker (1936- )**. **David Schifferdecker (1961- )** was Nancy's only sibling, being her older brother.

In Figure 4.11 "Ideal and Actual Number of Births, by Year," the authors reflected the number of births per year seen within American families. Particularly, the Baby Boom was a period in which many veterans had returned home from the war and decided to start a family with their sweetheart's. The graph displays the number of births per five years from 1930-2000. This is because the data was retained from a number of different surveys that had been taken throughout the course of decades. The given data shows a quick increase of births starting in the 1950's and a gradual decrease in births at the beginning of the 1970's. The recorded data, taken from the surveys, highlighted the change in ideology and wants. This goes to say that the urban population was founded to want smaller families while the rural had remained stagnant.

Nancy George grew up on a farm in between the towns of Ft. Scott and Girard, KS. To further, she was surrounded by the tradition and services of rural farmers but, also saw the process to a professional career. In other words, Nancy's family could have been on the larger scale, according to Figure 4. 11.<sup>4</sup> This is because Nancy was born in the midst of the Baby Boom but, in reality, she grew up with a single brother who was four years older than her. To relate, conservative influences combined with the professional careers of the parents of Nancy have shown to result in a smaller family, although Nancy and her family lived on a farm. Nancy and her brother David found constant activities to participate with

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<sup>4</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), 89.

each other. Normally, Nancy would follow in older brother footsteps, as he was her only play mate for miles. To summarize, in Nancy's childhood, she played actively with David, as her parent's careers and conservative influences left the family uniquely small for a rural household.

Nancy was four years younger than her older brother, explaining why they did not play much until she was in elementary school. **David Schifferdecker (1961- )** loved to play Batman, leading Nancy to play along, normally acting as the antagonist. Neither sibling had participated in summer sports, pushing them to play with one another. On the farm, Nancy would receive chores to complete, usually alongside her older brother. This strengthened their relationship and gave Nancy an opportunity to be outside and help her father.

Nancy was able to watch cartoons only on Saturday mornings. She would wake up early to watch episodes of Scooby doo and Looney Tunes. In addition, she enjoyed playing outside, helping her grandparents in the garden and playing in water puddles. At the age of seven, her father taught her to drive the family tractor. Overall, Nancy did not enjoy being inside unless she was cooking or practicing the piano. This started an early musical interest.

All throughout her childhood, Nancy had attended church with her family, establishing a strong relationship with her relatives and God. To further, she would participate, creating projects with her Grandma Schifferdecker, **Florene Morrison Schifferdecker (1908-19)**. For instance, Nancy would help her grandmother knit quilts or pillow cases. In relation, Nancy spent lots of time with her Grandpa Lehman, as her other Grandfather had passed when she was only 9 years old. This made Nancy want to become more knowledgeable of her family.

Before she was freshman in high school, Nancy and **Florene Morrison Schifferdecker (1908-19)** traveled to Europe, visiting France, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, and the Netherlands with a tourist group. It was in Paris, France where Nancy had met a girl who could speak French as well as English. As a result, Nancy wanted to do the same. Several years later, the Girard High School's French

Club took an educational trip to England and France, stimulating Nancy's interest to travel as well as broaden her language skills. As a life interest, Nancy has always loved to travel, visiting prominent U.S. cities as well as monuments like Mount Rushmore and Yellowstone. To summarize, traveling with her family taught Nancy to enjoy the educational experience. In other words, traveling experience is education. Also while in high school, Nancy participated in the school band and golf team, establishing a strong sense of importance in the art of music.

When Nancy was attending Pittsburg State University, she at first minored then later majored in French, because of past experiences. Along with her language major, she was able to study French in Canada. Before she moved for the summer, Nancy remembers her father being very nervous, forcing her to be responsible for her arrival and being. This helped Nancy to mature as she had to live on her own with several other Italian roommates.

Nancy spent her college years living with her best friend Connie Westhoff. During Nancy's freshman year, Annie, Connie's sister, had invited Nancy to her birthday party. While attending, Nancy met **Edward Leland George (1962- )**. After the party Nancy and Connie took Edward home, because his ride had left earlier and he was cousins with Connie. Once they were dropping him off, he asked Nancy on a date. She refused because she had been told by Connie that he had been a bit crazy and wild. In the end, Nancy accepted his invitation, just as long as he was able to find Connie a date.

By Nancy's sophomore year, she and Edward had begun dating, as they had related over similar values. Three and half years later in 1987, Nancy had graduated college and received a position in Joplin, working for the federal government. Before being fully employed, Nancy received training while living in Kansas City for several months. To summarize, Nancy was employed a bank examiner and appraiser. Three years later, she and Edward were engaged and lived together in Joplin, MO. As a couple, Nancy had purchased a home in October of 1990. She married Edward in October 1991.

On January 3, 1995, Nancy gave birth to twin boys in Joplin, MO. Several years later, she had another son, totaling Nathan, Nicholas, and Ethan. Within the next year, Nancy and Edward had relocated to farm North of Girard, KS. Nancy had been recommended to apply for a position at Girard National Bank. She received the job, becoming a part time loan officer. To present, Nancy is now the executive loan officer at Girard National Bank.

From as long as I can remember, my mother has always taken part in the Methodist Church in my home town. She helps to hold extra meetings with the church board to discuss future financial goals or activities. This goes to say that my family has always volunteered to host a wiener roast at our farm. This was always to let the church members gather together in an alternative setting while letting the young children to explore and play with one another. Also, my mother gives a lending hand to help teach classes to the younger attendees to the church. This also includes every holiday party of the year. She would conduct a holiday themed activity but would usually conclude on how the activity tied into the overall lesson. My mother has also invested her time into the church's youth group. In other words, she and other parents have volunteered their time after church to allow for teenage kids to play games and participate in further activities. For example, once the youth group went skiing and snowboarding. Overall, watching my mother put so much into a group has allowed me to see its advantages. Such positives characteristics would include the enhanced social life that the church brings. This experience of mine follows Fischer's **Groups** theme.<sup>5</sup> This is not only because of the increased social life this group has brought my mother but the independence it has given her. To further, the church helps to give my mother a self-sense of a proud identity while carrying on a great family value.

**Edward Leland George (1962- )** grew up in St. Paul, as his family had relocated from Wichita, KS in 1966. He would graduate from St. Paul High School after participating much in FFA and football. Growing up on his family's farm, Edward was able to find his love for the outdoors as he hunted and

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<sup>5</sup> Claude S. Fischer, *A Social History of American Culture and Character: Made in Aermica* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2010), 9.

fished often. Meanwhile, he had attended St. Francis Church , establishing family traditions a new religious relations.

In Figure 8.1, the data displays the different reigning religions found among Americans.<sup>6</sup> Particularly, the chart focuses peoples from twenty-four to twenty-five years of age. Overall, the given data shows that the majority of the American population had tied themselves to the Protestant religion. This goes to say that several of the listed religions were aligned with Christianity, as Catholicism and Protestantism displayed branches from the main religion. To summarize, the most commonly sought religions were tied to the Christian religion. The Jewish religion was seen to be the most popular religion that was unrelated to Christianity. Other minor religions such as Buddhist, Hindu, and Muslim were found to be identified with five percent of the total American population between the ages of twenty-four to twenty-five. Catholicism was founded to have been the second most popular religion, deterring that most twenty-four to twenty-five year old Americans are followers of a Christian religion.

Edward George and his family had identified has Catholics. When compared to Figure 8.1, Edward would have been one of twenty-five percent of Americans to have identified to the Catholic religion. Of course, the small town in which Edward grew up in, St Paul, had a prominent Catholic Church. Many followers travel to the extravagant Church of St Francis in St Paul. Edward George was a follower of the Catholic religion during his childhood, but during his adulthood, he changed alliances to Protestantism. According to the chart on page 189, Edward had still remained in the most commonly identified religions, although he had changed from Catholicism to Protestant. This is because the Christian based religions were found to be the most commonly sought religion in young American people.

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<sup>6</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), 189.



After his graduation, Edward attended a vocational-technical school, learning how to paint vehicles. He would later be employed, manufacturing for Bush Hog. While working in the manufacturing section, Edward would meet **Nancy Ellen Schifferdecker George (1965- )**. Shortly after, they would marry and Edward would reenter educational classes in Joplin, MO. During his short bout in Joplin, MO, Edward would father three children and earn his college degree. For employment, Edward relocated to Crawford State Park, moving the family to Nancy's family owned farm. Once moved, Edward would work a meaningful career with the Kansas Wildlife Service as well as establishing a farm operation and taxidermy business.

## GENERATION THREE

**A1a1. Carol Ann Lehman Schifferdecker (1940- )**

**A1a2. John Edwin Schifferdecker (1936- )**

**A1b1. Helen Bradshaw George (1936- )**

**A1b2. Donald George (1940- )**

**Carol Ann Lehman Schifferdecker (1940-)**, Nathan's maternal grandmother, was born in Mulberry, KS in January 1940. She was aside four siblings, 3 sisters and 1 brother. Each of her sisters were at least 15 years of age older than Carol. This goes to say that the oldest, Susie, helped raise Carol. For instance, Susie would later be the authority figure who helped Carol to choose her homecoming and wedding dress.

Carol remembers growing up with no running water, forcing them to bath in a ground tub and retrieve water from the outdoor well. She was raised on a farm near Mulberry, KS. **Leonard Lehman (1900-1987)**, Carol's father, owned a dairy farm and was nearly thirty-nine years old when she was born.

Education was an important tradition to appreciate and absorb for the family. As a result, Carol was highly educated for women. After the first grade, she skipped the second grade and attended third instead. While in high school, Carol was voted to be a homecoming queen candidate while participating on the cheer squad. Also, Carol could have always been found playing the piano in her spare time. She graduated from Mulberry High School in 1957.<sup>7</sup> During the next summer, Carol relocated to California to work for North American Airlines, as she lived with she older sister Ruth. She then lived in Mulberry while attending college at Kansas State Teachers College in Pittsburg, KS. While studying at Pittsburg, Carol was learning to be a business teacher. After two years, she left college to work at Girard National Bank for several years.

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<sup>7</sup> Carol Ann Lehman Schifferdecker, interview by author, Girard, September 12, 2017.

Carol met **John Edwin Schifferdecker (1936-)** at **Martin M. Schifferdecker (1932-2015)**'s wedding rehearsal at the Christian Church in Girard, KS. After the practice, John asked Carol to go with him to buy rice for the revealing of the newlyweds. Carol accepted the invitation as long as her friend could go too. John then asked if he could proceed to take her home. Carol refused until accepting his next invitation, after the wedding. After that, the rest was history as Carol married John at the Christian Church in Girard, KS on September 4, 1960. John had commented that Carol drove her truck with a lead foot, exceeding a hundred miles per hour with ease. As a result, when she would drive by he would hold his hand as if to wave. Within the next several years, Nancy and David were born. After Nancy was in school, Carol returned to college, studying music and the organ.

Carol fell ill in 1984, becoming disabled as her brain surgery had faltered. As for motivation, John told her that if she could walk one lap around the high school track then they would vacation to Hawaii. In the end, Nancy graduated college and Carol completed her task. In relation, Carol loved to travel throughout, as she had visited Netherlands and other European countries. Again, Carol was sickened by breast cancer, this time after receiving the news that her daughter was pregnant with twins.

Nathan's maternal grandfather, **John Edwin Schifferdecker (1936- )** was born in September of 1936 in Girard, Kansas. He grew up on his family's farm, Northwest of Girard, KS. He spent much of his time helping his father in the garden alongside his brother and sister Martin and Carlene. In high school, John never played sports, but rather participated in band and forensics. He had proven to be quite talented as he won the county contest six years in a row, from middle school through high school. Also, John sang in the Glee Club.

After graduating Girard High School, John attended Kansas State Teachers College to become a history teacher, as he majored in History and minored in Science. John learned to milk dairy cows every morning in order to fund his college tuition. He graduated and married the woman of his dreams **Carol Ann Lehman Schifferdecker (1940- )**. Later on, he purchased a plot of land North of Girard, KS. This is

where he established a farm for cattle and crops. To explain, a small town called Hepler, Kansas had become established in 1871.<sup>8</sup> Hepler would go on to become a major shipping station of cattle and grain. They exported their products with the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad. Today, the town of Hepler has a population of less than 150 people. Although, the town's past history remains through the surrounding farmers who still raise beef and grains. Reflecting the generations who farmed before them. In fact, **Nancy Ellen Schifferdecker George (1965- )** and **Edward Leland George (1962- )** still reside on the lands purchased by John, continuing the family tradition of being a farmer.

In Figure 5.6, Fischer and Hout displayed the types of employment and how they grew or disappeared. To start, the first chart reflects the number of farmers and laborious employees. As the decades went by, the chart showed that they declined little by little. To further, the number of farmers by 2000 was now at the constant minimum. Blue-Collar and Service employment began to become very popular. This goes to say that the other charts in Figure 5.6 highlight the change in the number of professional employment positions. As the decades rolled over, the number of professional jobs such as a sales worker had increased greatly, explaining the shift from agricultural and laborious jobs to more urban and professional positions.

For work, John Schifferdecker had been a school teacher at Walnut's school system. He would later start work at Girard National Bank, establishing his professional lifestyle. All the while, John maintained farm land, inherited and purchased to further the family's production of crops and cattle. This goes to say John's career path was similar to the displayed data, given in Figure 5.6.<sup>9</sup> To clarify, he enjoyed a lifelong professional career as an educator and banker, as many other men had also sought professional rather than a laborious career. On the other hand, John

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<sup>8</sup> Wikipedia. "Hepler, Kansas." Accessed September 12, 2017.

<sup>9</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), 109.

Schifferdecker had remained a beef farmer while continuing his professional career. The lively hood of John's career path, alongside his farming duties, shows that most men had in fact lead to professional careers, as opposed to farming and laborious jobs. Of course, this highlights that not all men gave up their family tradition, as John continued his farming responsibilities. Arguably, this lifestyle may have contributed to the raising of Nathan and his siblings, as they were in the same environment.

John taught school at Walnut, KS, later to Girard, KS. He taught the subjects of history until he became the principle. He returned back to college to receive educational requirements for teaching when he decided to finish with his Masters by 1968. During the summers off of teaching, John would combine his milo and tend to his cattle to keep himself occupied. His firs large farm purchase was 1954 model John Deer. He fathered two children, one girl, **Nancy Ellen Schifferdecker George (1963- )** and a boy, **David Schifferdecker (1961- )**. For fun, John taught Sunday School classes at the Farlington Methodist Church and spent time with his family while at the family farm

**Helen Marie Bradshaw George (1937- )** grew up in St. Paul, KS as her family had farm. Helen had spent much of her childhood playing with her siblings, especially closest in age, Clara. Helen, being one of the oldest of her siblings, took different roles throughout her childhood. For instance, she saved her younger brother. He had only been 2 years old and had fallen in the hog's water. Thankfully, Helen was able to grab her younger sibling as she was nearly 14 years of age. In addition, she attended country school until transferring to St. Patrick's in Walnut, KS. Helen was saddened because she was not allowed to partake in sports, other than what was performed in physical education class. Also, Helen loved to go to dances in Walnut, as she could see all the local boys. While in high school, Helen was asked by a St. Paul boy to go on a date. Years later, she and **Donald Joseph George (1936- )** had started family, moving to Wichita, KS. 10 years later, the two would relocate to Donald's parents land in St. Paul, KS.

Here Helen served as a lunch women and educational tutor, seeing each of her children through her school. After retiring, she started to raise and groom dogs.

**Donald Joseph George (1936- )** was born in St. Paul, KS. He attended country school with Helen until he moved to St. Francis High School. By the time of his graduation, the school was renamed to St. Paul. Throughout his childhood, he learned to work the family livestock operation as he helped with chores often. After high school, he married **Helen Marie Bradshaw George (1937- )** and moved to Wichita, KS. He had worked for Boeing, modifying different aviation models like the B-47 and B-52. During his 10 year stay in Wichita, KS, Donald fathered several children before moving to St. Paul, KS in 1966.<sup>10</sup> On his farm, Donald raised pigs and cattle, also taking his boys on hunting trips. To his memory, Donald had to carry his son Edward on his back during a squirrel hunting trip because the weeds were so tall. Overall, Donald had continued his father's tradition of operating the livestock and land.

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<sup>10</sup>Donald Joseph George, interview by author, Girard, September 12, 2017.

## GENERATION FOUR

**A1a1a. Addie Adelia Jameson Lehman (1903-1990)**

**A1a1b. Leonard Lehman (1900-1982)**

**A1a2a. Florene Morrison Schifferdecker (1908-1999)**

**A1a2b. William Earl Schifferdecker (1904-19)**

**A1b1a. Regina Westhoff Bradshaw (1909-2003)**

**A1b1b. Leland Bernard Bradshaw (1911-1987)**

**A1b2a. Mary VanLeeuwen George (1897-1975)**

**A1b2b. Thomas Albert George (1893- 1980)**

Nathan's great Grandmother Lehman, **Addie Adelia Jameson Lehman (1903-1990)** was born on 11 October, 1903 in Mulberry, KS.<sup>11</sup> Addie and her three siblings were very religious, attending church three to four times a week. Eventually, she transferred to the Pentecostal Church. In other words, this meant that she followed a strict dress and hair code.

Addie married Leonard Lehman on June 18, 1920 in Lamar, MO. Addie worked mostly as the main caretaker of the children and house, as she had five children total, the youngest being **Carol Ann Lehman Schifferdecker (1940- )**. Addie had worked with truck drivers, as did her husband. In her free time, Addie enjoyed knitting quilts and crochets on the family's dairy farm. **Addie Adelia Jameson Lehman (1903-1990)** passed away on 7 October 1990.

**Leonard Lehman (1900-1982)** was born in the Muskogee Territory in Oklahoma on September 9, 1900. He had 5 siblings total and had relocated to Mulberry, KS shortly after his birth. Leonard was educated until the eighth grade, because he had to go work to help sustain his family. This established his thought of importance in education. This influenced him to have each one of his children to be well educated. He later married his wife, **Addie Adelia Jameson Lehman (1903-1990)**, having 5 total children.

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<sup>11</sup> "United States Census, 1940," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/VRVY-M2Q> : accessed 27 September 2017).

Leonard worked in the coal mines of Mulberry, eventually driving their trucks. Once elderly, he focused on his dairy farm, selling milk to the local business called Carnation in Girard, KS. He passed away 25 August 1987 in Crestview Nursing Home in Girard, KS.

Nathan's great grandmother Schifferdecker, **Florene Morrison Schifferdecker (1908-1999)** was born in Girard, KS. She grew up and graduated high school having six siblings. Later on, she taught the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. She had been married to **William Earl Schifferdecker (1904-19)** previously to your hire. In the 1920's, women could not teach school if they were married. For this reason, Florene had signed here signature with her maiden name. As a result, the officials did not notice her status until the school year was upon them, allowing for her to teach for two years, from `1925-26 in Ringo. She purchased a house with her husband, on N Summit St in Girard, KS. For entertainment, Florene sewed clothes, mostly for her three children, Carlene, Martin, and John.

**William Earl Schifferdecker (1904-19)** was born in 1904, attending school in Girard, KS. He graduated Girard High School, riding a horse from a farm Northwest of town. He then attended the Pittsburg Business College, guaranteeing his employment. He work in Los Angeles only to distastefully return to work at a bank in Arma, KS. Several years later, he transferred to Girard National Bank, investing lots of money into the business.

My Mother's family came to the United States in the 1870's. Eventually, my relatives would settle in Illinois for a short time while working in the brewery's. It may have been possible for one of my family members to have read this newspaper and see the growing beer business. In the years later, my family moved to Joplin, MO where they started their own breweries.<sup>12</sup> This amassed a fortune for Charles Schifferdecker. Upon his death, Charles left his nephews a great sum. Earl Schifferdecker invested his into Girard National Bank. He worked at the establishment until his death in 1928, leaving his farmland

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<sup>12</sup> *Chicago daily tribune*. (Chicago, Ill.), 25 April 1875. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84031492/1875-04-25/ed-1/seq-5/> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.> [Accessed 13 September 2017].



North of Girard to his children. He had been married to at the Christian Church in Girard, KS in 1928. He and his wife, Florene, had three children. For hobbies, Earl enjoyed playing horse shoes, setting up lights to allow evening play. Also, he enjoyed working cattle.

Nathan's paternal great grandmother **Regina Westhoff Bradshaw (1909-2003)** was born on 13 July 1909 in Walnut, KS. Regina went to country school, like her daughter **Helen Marie Bradshaw George (1937- )**. To describe, the country school is made up of sections of ages. For instance, there was elementary, middle, and high school levels. Regina had completed her education through the eighth grade as she had retaken level a total of 2 times. She married a local man in **Leland Bernard Bradshaw (1911-1987)** and started a family, totaling 8 children in all. Before her passing, Regina had spawned a great family in size. She died in St. Paul, KS 14 February 2003.

**Leland Bernard Bradshaw (1911-1987)** was born in St. Paul, KS. Throughout his childhood, he learned to farm alongside his father and brother, Ben and Benny. Together, they rented and owned their operated farm lands. Leland began after finishing the fifth grade. His most only brand new tractor was a Minneapolis Moline. To summarize, Leland raised cattle. He married **Regina Westhoff Bradshaw (1909-2003)**, fathering 8 children in all.

**Mary VanLeeuwen George (1897-1975)** was born in in St. Paul, KS in 1897. She attended country school through the eighth grade. She was married in 1918 to **Thomas Albert George (1893-1980)**. She had been pregnant during a stressful period in which her husband had fallen deeply ill, causing for her to have a miscarriage. On April 6, 1917, the United States of America declared war on Germany.<sup>13</sup> This was a significant statement for it marked the beginning to which the United

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<sup>13</sup> *The Topeka state journal*. (Topeka, Kan.), 06 April 1917. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn82016014/1917-04-06/ed-1/seq-1/>>

States of American had become involved in the Great War. This would have told Nathan's great grandparents that times would be changing and stress wasn't an altering characteristic.

Mary would go on to have 10 children in total, including Nathan's paternal grandfather. She and Thomas had decided to care for an orphan, named Mary. She had been a 3 year old girl who was being transported through an Orphan Train from New York. As nobody wanted a young girl who could not perform laborious chores, Mary and Thomas were able to care for her. This goes to say that they were not able to adopt her. Overall, this act brought the family to a total of eleven children.

**Thomas Albert George (1893-1980)** was born to St. Paul, KS in 1893. He farmed land South of the town of St. Paul. He had married **Mary VanLeeuwen George (1807-1975)** in 1918, later purchasing their family farm in 1920. At the age of twenty-three, he had to have an arm amputated. This was because in the previous year of 1921, he had received blood poisoning as he had rust enter a wound while he had been scraping a plow. Although altered, Thomas continued to work and maintain his family farm operations. He would deliver his milk, fruits, and vegetables by using his Model T Ford. He taught his many children to farm, including **Donald Joseph George (1936- )** in which they had potato plants and many fruit trees. To add, they milked dairy cows routinely. Donald recalls that Thomas had tremendous strength with his one hand, as his father could milk a cow just as fast as he could with two.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Donald Joseph George, interview by author, Girard, September 12, 2017.

## GENERATION FIVE

**A1a1a1. Susie Ellen Garret Jameson (1883-1974)**

**A1a1a2. Hannibal Jay Jameson (1875-1916)**

**A1a1b1. Elizabeth Evans/ Lehman (1881-1952)**

**A1a1b2. George Brenton Lehman (1863-1950)**

**A1a2a1. Nancey Ann Whitley Morrison (1872-1958)**

**A1a2a2. Hiram Moses Morrison (1862-1936)**

**A1a2b1. Martin Schifferdecker (1875-1936)**

**A1a2b2. Hattie M. Van Ness Schifferdecker (1879-1956)**

**A1b1a1. Rose Ann Schulz Westhoff (1882-1963)**

**A1b1a2. Philip Lewis Westhoff (1870-1946)**

**A1b1b1. Caroline Philomena Schoenhofer Bradshaw (1890-1975)**

**A1b1b2. Benjamin Bernard Bradshaw (1887-1954)**

**A1b2a1. Wallburga Plfumm VanLeeuwen (1870-1910)**

**A1b2a2. John VanLeeuwen (1865- 19)**

**A1b2b1. Jahanna Jane Clinch George (1851-1939)**

**A1b2b2. John Nicholas George (1847-1924)**

**Susie Ellen Garret Jameson (1883-1974)** was born in March 19, 1883. While growing up, her family had a restaurant in Mulberry which they would clear for a dance floor on the week nights. The older siblings would play music and everyone would dance. The largest brother of Susie acted as the bouncer. Susie married **Hannibal Jay Jameson (1875-1916)** and had four children, Addie, Ethel, Mildrid, and Sarah. Since her husband tragically died in a coal mining accident, she remarried to Charlie Proctor for financial reasons. She passed away in the year of 1974.

**Hannibal Jay Jameson (1875-1916)** was born in 1875. He worked as coal miner in Mulberry, KS. He would marry Susie and have four children. His life would be cut short as a large rock fell and broke his back, later killing him by the year of 1916.

A great great grandmother of Nathan's, **Elizabeth Evans (1881-1952)** was born in 1881. She had married **George Brenton Lehman (1863-1950)** and birthed four children. In 1917, they divorced as she

wed again to a Mr. Evans. After she had been divorced, Elizabeth traveled all around, visiting Arizona often. She was firm believer in appearing proper and professional in public, always wearing a hat. While traveling, she would always bring two suitcases, one for clothes and another for medical supplies. She passed away in 1952.

**George Brenton Lehman (1863-1950)** was born in 1863. He was married on February 13, 1896, later fathering seven children. He was very well known to be a free thinker of intellectual thought. In other words, he would write specs and poetry, at one point publishing a small book. He and his wife Elizabeth divorced in 1917. Most notably, Carol can remember visiting her grandfather. While there, he would feed the children food, one at a time. This was because he had only one plate and utensil, meaning after each use it had to be washed. He had lived and died by Walnut Grove, OK.

**Nancey Ann Whitley Morrison (1872-1958)** was born in the year of 1872. Her family moved to Jerico Springs, MO. Her first memory of life was when she entered the town and had witnessed the flags at half-staff for President Garfield had been assassinated. She was educated until the 4<sup>th</sup> reader. At her schools, the children did not have grade levels. She would go on to marry **Hiram Moses Morrison (1862-1936)**. Together, they had 7 total children. After Nancy had been widowed, she began to live with her children, eventually passing away in Girard, KS 1958.

**Hiram Moses Morrison (1862-1936)** never met his mother for she died during his birth. He had been born in Virginia, modern day West Virginia. Among his childhood experiences, he remembered his older sister crying at the window because he boyfriend was out fighting in a battle for the Civil War. Because of the Civil War, his family moved to Southeast Kansas. Here he was well educated at an academy in Jerico Springs, MO. He then married in 1887 and moved to Midway and Walnut, KS to be labor as a blacksmith. Overall, Hiram was a devout Christian who prominently believed in education.

**Hattie M. Van Ness Schifferdecker (1879-1956)** was born in Girard, KS in 1879. She had grown up attending school with her future husband, **Martin Schifferdecker (1875-1936)** and lived across

the road. In that neighborhood, German immigrants had bought plots of land among each other, leading to the Van Ness and Schifferdecker relations. She married and had 4 boys with Martin. She spent her time caring for her family. She died in the year of 1956.

**Martin Schifferdecker (1875-1936)** was born to Jacob Schifferdecker, a German immigrant and brother of Charlie Schifferdecker. Martin grew up in Girard, KS, because his father had a farm Northwest of Girard. This displays the main reason for his father's journey, that being to buy land, never to sell. Martin would mature to marry **Hattie M. Van Ness Schifferdecker (1879-1956)** and father 4 boys. Martin had met her in his childhood, as she lived on a farm across the road and attended Salem Country School alongside him.

**Rose Anna Schulz Westhoff (1882-1963)** was born in 1882. She would go on to have married **Philip Lewis Westhoff (1870-1946)** in Greenbush, KS on 21 October 1902. In 1909, Rose and Philip had one of Nathan's paternal great great grandmothers **Regina Westhoff Bradshaw (1909-2003)**.

**Caroline Philomena Schoenhofer Bradshaw (1890-1975)** was the great great paternal grandmother of Nathan. She married (**Benjamin Bernard Bradshaw (1887- 1954)**) in St. Paul, KS 9 June 1908. Shortly thereafter, Caroline and Benjamin had **Leland Bernard Bradshaw (1911-1987)**, Nathan's great great grandfather.

**Wallburga Plfumm VanLeeuwen (1870-1910)** is most commonly known for her maiden name. In Kansas City, a Street is named after her previous family. Wallburga would birth **Mary VanLeeuwen (1897-1975)** and 10 other children after marrying **John VanLeeuwen (1865- 19)**. They would reside and raise their family near the township of St. Paul, KS.

**Jahanna Jane Clinch George (1851-1939)** was born in 1851 in Luxembourg, modern day Belgium. She later married **John Nicholas George (1847-1924)** on 8 Feb 1869 in Sheldon, Wyoming County, New York and mothered 13 children in all. She died on 3 April 1939 in St. Paul, KS.

**John Nicholas George (1847-1924)** was born in Luxembourg and immigrated to New York, later marrying **Jahanna Jane Clinch George (1851-1939)** at St. Cecelia's Roman Catholic Church in

Sheldon, NY. Overall, John had fathered 18 children but had lost 5 his children at infancy. John was a farmer and moved to Walnut, Kansas in 1869.<sup>15</sup> He was well known for his gentle nature but was said to have been an out spoken man. He had partaken in the 'Migration West' in which many Georges left New York to seek the obtainment of land. John died on 3 July 1924 in St. Paul, KS.

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<sup>15</sup> "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/M2CM-T46> : accessed 21 November 2017), John N George, Grant, Crawford, Kansas, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 84, sheet 9A, family 151, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 436; FHL microfilm 1,374,449.