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Family History of Kelsie Mart

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**The Family History of
Kelsie R. Mart
21 November 2017**

Kelsie Renea Mart authored this family history as part of the course requirements for HIST 550/700 Your Family in History offered online in Fall 2017 and was submitted to the Pittsburgh State University Digital Commons. Please contact the author directly with any questions or comments:
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GENERATION ONE

Kelsie Renea Mart (1995-) was born in Parsons, Kansas, on 11 December 1995 to **Jeffrey Wayne Mart (1975-)** and **Jennifer Kay Traxson Stewart (1977-)**. Kelsie was born full term and there were no complications during birth. Kelsie's mother was only a teenager when she got pregnant, which was a big leap for both Jennifer and Jeffrey. It was a fairly easy birth and Jennifer made it through with no problems.

Kelsie's parents got married while Jennifer was still in high school, and soon after graduating, Jennifer and Jeffrey moved into a small duplex together in Parsons, Kansas. They didn't last long at the duplex due to a fire breaking out on the other half, so Jennifer, Jeffrey, and Kelsie all moved into Jeffrey's parents house until they figured out where they wanted to go next. The relationship between Jennifer and Jeffrey didn't last long and they ended up divorcing, so Jennifer and Kelsie moved into Jennifer's dad's home in Altamont, Kansas, where Jennifer's dad and younger brother lived.

Jennifer and Kelsie lived at Jennifer's dad's house for four years. When Kelsie entered preschool, she attended the United Methodist Preschool, which was right next door to Kelsie's grandfathers house in Altamont, Kansas. Since the school was right next door, it was easy getting Kelsie to school, and it was easy to pick her up as well. Kelsie has very vivid memories of the United Methodist Preschool and can almost remember all of the toys that she played with and different activities that the teachers had her do. Kelsie remembers playing with a tall racecar track that had many different racecars and trucks, and she remembers a puppet stage and the many different puppets that were there to be used. Kelsie remembers an activity that the preschool teacher had the class do, which was to write out letters and numbers with her fingers after the teacher put shaving cream on all of the student's desks. Kelsie remembers all of the students in her class, because she later went on to attending 2nd grade with almost all of the same students.

Kelsie's mother, Jennifer, met a man named **Jerry Stewart (1975-)** in Parsons, Kansas, when Kelsie was only four years old. Things got serious between Jennifer and Jerry, and they ended up renting a home together in Parsons, Kansas, that was a block away from Guthridge Elementary School. Kelsie attended Guthridge her kindergarten year. Kelsie enjoyed kindergarten and loved her teacher, Miss Theedee. Kelsie vividly remembers a field trip that was taken to a lake that had a small wilderness trail that Kelsie really enjoyed. Living only a block away from the school, transportation was made very easy because Jennifer was able to walk Kelsie right to school when the weather was nice, and it was only a short drive when the weather got bad.

With this new life of moving out of Kelsie's grandfathers home with her mother and into a new home with Jennifer and Jennifer's boyfriend Jerry, Kelsie quickly adapted and had no troubles with the adjustment. Jerry has a son and daughter from a previous marriage, and their names are **Zackey Stewart (1996-)** and **Haleigh Stewart (1997-)**. Kelsie was used to being the only child around so it was a bit hard on her at first, but she quickly began to like the idea of having other kids to play with. Zackery is only five months younger than Kelsie, and Haleigh is two years younger than Kelsie. Kelsie only saw Zackery and Haleigh every other weekend.

For first grade, Kelsie moved schools once again. This time around, Jennifer and Jerry rented a home that was on the other side of Parsons, Kansas, near the state hospital. Kelsie attended Lincoln Elementary School in Parsons, Kansas, and enjoyed that school as well. It was hard moving schools again, but Kelsie quickly made a few friends and enjoyed her year at Lincoln. Kelsie's mother, Jennifer, worked at Lincoln Elementary, so having Kelsie attend the same school that Jennifer worked at made the most sense, because now Jennifer was able to take Kelsie to school every morning, and it helped that she was close by. One of Kelsie's best friends in the first grade's name was Samantha. Samantha was in the other first grade class, but they got to eat lunch together and play at recess. Samantha was deaf, which was the reason that Kelsie's mother got to work at Lincoln. Jennifer was a sign language interpreter and went

everywhere that Samantha went in order to sign to her what people were saying. Kelsie loved having her mother so close because her mother got to eat lunch with her and Samantha every day, as well as attend all of the field trips that the classes went on.

Jennifer and Jerry became pregnant in 2001 and gave birth to Kelsie's little sister, **Aubree Diane Stewart (2001-)**. Aubree was born 6 December 2001 in Parsons, Kansas. Having a little sister and no longer being Jennifer's only daughter took a huge toll on Kelsie. This was a new life to her and she had trouble adjusting for a long while. After Aubree was born, Jennifer and Jerry got married 20 March 2003. Kelsie now had a stepfather, a new baby sister, and a stepbrother and stepsister all in span of a few years.

A theme that Fischer discusses in the chapter was "Groups". Growing up, Kelsie's mother was always very involved in different groups and activities in the community. She was always that mom that got involved in school activities, as well as activities through the Methodist Church that the family attended while Kelsie was growing up. Volunteering around the small town of Altamont, Kansas, was always very important to Jennifer as well, and one of her favorite things to do is be part of the Flag Day Committee Team. Her and a group of others would meet throughout the year to plan the different festivities and events that would occur on the annual Flag Day. These were social options that gave Kelsie's family the opportunity to form bonds and create new friendships throughout the community. Growing up, Kelsie was always that kid who had a mom that everyone knew. All of Kelsie's friends in school knew her mother well because she helped with many activities at the school throughout Kelsie's childhood. Kelsie's mother was also very involved all throughout Kelsie's high school career. Kelsie's mother being so involved in the community gave Kelsie the motivation and drive to be just as involved as she is. She proved to Kelsie that great friendships and opportunities arise from putting yourself out there and doing something to better the community that you live in. This is a theme that shows how important it is to get involved in a voluntary society.

Since Kelsie's parents were divorced, the time spent with both parents had to be split. Kelsie lived with her mother on the weekdays and every other weekend, and Kelsie's father got to spend every other weekend with Kelsie. Jennifer was very open to letting Jeffrey spend more time with Kelsie, and he wasn't only restricted to seeing her every other weekend. Both parents were very flexible and worked well with each other when it came to sharing the time that they got to spend with Kelsie. Jeffrey paid child support every month and there were never any issues.

After Jennifer and Jeffrey divorced, the hardest part for Kelsie was having to go from house to house. She did see a plus, though, and that was the fact that she got to celebrate two of everything – two birthdays, two Christmas's, and two Easters. Jeffrey got a house by himself in Parsons, Kansas, that Kelsie remembers very well. Jeffrey was never a lovey-type of dad, so he had trouble connecting with Kelsie in that way. For a while, it was just Kelsie and Jeffrey whenever Jeffrey got Kelsie for a weekend. Jeffrey was young and enjoyed hanging out with his friends, so Kelsie spent a lot of time at Jeffrey's parents house whenever Jeffrey had her for a weekend. Jeffrey lived in the same home for several years, but the routine switched up when he began dating a woman named Jessie in 2003. Jessie had a son from a previous relationship, so Kelsie realized it was only a matter of time before she gained another stepbrother. Jeffrey and Jessie married in 2004 and bought a home together that was a few blocks away from Guthridge Elementary School in Parsons, Kansas, which was near the house that Jennifer and Jerry had rented when Kelsie was in kindergarten. Kelsie was familiar with the area and loved her new house because it was big and she got her own bedroom that she got to decorate however she wanted. Kelsie quickly noticed that right across the street from her father's new home were kids that looked to be about Kelsie's age. Kelsie walked across the street while the kids were outside playing, and instantly clicked with them and became the best of friends. The girl that was the same age as Kelsie's name was Kaylee, and Kelsie really enjoyed going to her father's house on the weekends so that her and Kaylee could play together.

Kelsie is Jeffrey's only daughter, but she always felt like her cousins were like sisters to her. She grew up with her three cousins, **Ashton Merlyn Swayze (1999-)**, **Kaylyn Adria Swayze (1999-)**, and **Hannah Kathryn Swayze (1996-)**, who were Jeffrey's nieces. Ashton, Kaylyn, and Hannah's mother, **Sarah Kathryn Mart Dawson (1978-)**, was also a young mom, getting pregnant with Hannah a year after Jennifer. Sarah gave birth to a set of twins in 1999, Kaylyn and Ashton. Sarah and Jennifer graduated together and were friends, so it was nice that Jennifer and Sarah had a friendship that lasted even after Jennifer and Jeffrey divorced. Since Jeffrey often dropped Kelsie off at his parent's home when it was his weekend to have Kelsie, Kelsie spent a lot of time with her three cousins at their grandparents home since Sarah often dropped them off there as well since she was a single mother with a job.

Due to the death of Kelsie's great-grandfather, Jennifer's father moved from his home in Altamont, Kansas, to another home that was just right up the street. This meant that the home that Kelsie's grandfather previously lived in was now empty, so Jennifer, Jerry, Kelsie, and Aubree moved from their rented home in Parsons, Kansas, to the home that Jennifer grew up in in Altamont, Kansas. The home had been in the family for years and years, and Jennifer was now the owner of a free home that was passed down to her.

Jennifer still worked in Parsons, Kansas, at Lincoln Elementary School, and Jerry worked in Parsons, Kansas, at the state hospital. Kelsie's great-aunt, **Patricia Davidson Bennett (1960-)**, babysat Aubree at her home in Parsons, Kansas, every Monday-Friday. By now, Kelsie was entering the second grade and attended Altamont Grade School in Altamont, Kansas. Changing schools once again was hard and Kelsie was very nervous, but after her first day of school she felt relieved to see that most of the kids in her class were the same ones that she attended preschool with. Kelsie quickly became best friends with Rhyder Bruce, and they were inseparable. Kelsie and Rhyder spent every day at school together and Rhyder came home after school every day with Kelsie until Rhyder's mother got off work and picked her up. Kelsie enjoyed her new school and was happy with the move to Altamont, Kansas. Kelsie

attended the same school until 8th grade. After 8th grade, she attended Labette County High School in Altamont, Kansas, until she graduated in 2014. Kelsie was friends with a boy named Matthew Cook in preschool and they rekindled their friendship in grade school, but it wasn't until about 7th grade that they became extremely close. Kelsie and Rhyder had drifted apart a bit, and now Kelsie's best friend was Matthew.

Kelsie's high school experience wasn't the greatest, and she had a difficult time fitting in. She noticed that everyone that she went to grade school with from 2nd-8th grade had drifted apart and everyone kind of went their own way. Kelsie had a hard time making friends in high school because she wasn't like the majority of the students that went there. Labette County High School is known for their FFA program and sports, neither of which Kelsie was interested in. By her senior year, Kelsie got out of her shell and joined theatre and finally figured out what made her happy. Kelsie made lifelong friends through the theatre program, and it was through theatre that her and Matthew became even closer. Kelsie had several small parts in Shrek the Musical and after the musical, she fell in love with everything about theatre. As senior year went on, Kelsie became best friends with Jordan Schreppel, who she later lived in a dorm with her freshman year of college.

Kelsie grew up in a small town in Kansas where everyone knows everybody. There are no secrets in Altamont and everyone knows each other's business. Kelsie did not enjoy growing up in such a small town and wanted to move very badly, but the family could not just relocate. Kelsie often wonders what it would have been like to grow up in a city like she had always wanted. Now, Kelsie is eager to finish college so that she can move up to Kansas City to enjoy the city life a bit.

After Kelsie graduated from Labette County High School in 2014, she moved to Independence, Kansas, and attended one semester at Independence Community College. At Independence Community College, Kelsie and her friend Jordan Schreppel moved into a dorm together. Kelsie quickly realized that this wasn't the school for her, so Kelsie moved back home

and spent the next semester at Labette Community College in Parsons, Kansas. Kelsie was unsure of what she wanted to major in at the time, so she got as many general classes out of the way that she could. Eventually, Kelsie decided to transfer over to Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kansas, to study graphic design. Kelsie moved into an apartment with Jordan, and once again, they were roommates. Kelsie and Jordan lived in their apartment together for about a year and then Kelsie decided to get a one-bedroom apartment by herself. By this time, Kelsie wasn't into graphic design anymore and switched her major to marketing. Kelsie studied marketing for two semesters. Now, Kelsie is a senior and will graduate from Pittsburg State University in May 2018.

GENERATION TWO

- Ala. Jennifer Kay Traxson Stewart (1977-)**
- Alb. Jeffrey Wayne Mart (1975-)**

Jennifer Kay Traxson Stewart (1977-), was born in Joplin, Missouri, on 2 October 2017 to **Cynthia Kathleen Davidson Traxson (1955-)** and **Charles Scott Traxson (1949-)**. Jennifer had one sibling - a younger brother, **Joshua Wayne Traxson (1982-2011)**¹.

Growing up, Jennifer had a good childhood. Things changed once her parents divorced when she was 13 years old. After her parents divorced, Jennifer and Joshua lived with their father because their mother wasn't completely stable at that time. Jennifer and her father had a great relationship growing up, and still do to this day. Jennifer and her mother are doing great as well, but aren't as close as Jennifer and her father².

Jennifer lost her brother Joshua on 14 August 2011 due to suicide. Joshua's death played a major toll on Jennifer's life and drastically changed it. He was Jennifer's only sibling, and Jennifer is still recovering from his death 6 years later. Jennifer had a good support system through this hard time, and Joshua's death ended up bringing the family a lot closer in the end because it was a traumatic experience that everyone dealt with together.

Jennifer and her family moved from Joplin, Missouri, to Columbus, Kansas, when Jennifer and Joshua were young. Both Jennifer and Joshua attended only a few years of grade school in Columbus, Kansas, before the family moved to Altamont, Kansas. Jennifer attended Labette County High School and met her ex-husband there, Jeffrey Mart. Jeffrey was two years older than Jennifer, and Jennifer loved the idea of having senior boyfriend while she was a sophomore.

Jennifer learned that she was pregnant at the end of her junior year, and this was difficult news for a 17-year-old girl to swallow. Luckily, both Jennifer and Jeffrey's parents were very supportive of them both and the idea of becoming grandparents excited them. Joshua was very excited to become an uncle.

¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/74981325/joshua-w-traxson>

² Jennifer Stewart, interview with Kelsie Mart, 1 November 2017

Jennifer got her associates degree in 2011 from Labette Community College, and she just finished her schooling for her Bachelor's degree from Newman University for Elementary Education. She will graduate in December 2017 and walk the stage in May 2018 for something that she has worked many years on. Jenny is currently employed at Greenbush as a sign language interpreter, and has been working for Greenbush for 15 years. Right now, she is only working for Greenbush part time while she does her last semester of student teaching before she graduates in December.

Jeffrey Wayne Mart (1975-) was born in Hutchinson, Kansas, on 27 July 1975 to **Lou Ann Hayes Mart (1955-)** and **Robert Wayne Mart (1951 -)**. Jeffrey has one sister, **Sarah Kathryn Mart Dawson (1978-)**.

Jeffrey grew up in Hutchinson, Kansas, and lived there until his family moved to Parsons, Kansas. Jeffrey lived in Parsons, Kansas, but attended high school in Altamont, Kansas, at Labette County High School. The distance between Parsons, Kansas, and Altamont, Kansas, is only about 10 miles so driving to school every day was worth it because in Jeffrey's parent's opinion, Labette County High School was an all around better school than Parsons High School³.

Jeffrey was the typical "bad boy" – he played bass in a band, had a hot rod car, and he was allowed to go out and party and drink with his friends as long as he was home by curfew. Jeffrey started to have issues with alcohol while he was in high school and made some terrible decisions while intoxicated. This began his alcohol problems that would later shape his future.

Jeffrey went from working minimum wage at Long John Silvers to taking on a full time position at Ducommun Aerostructures in order to provide for his family once Jennifer became pregnant. Jeffrey worked at Ducommun from 1995-2016. Both Jennifer and Jeffrey went from living with their parents to living together in a small duplex that was located right next to the

³ Jeffrey Mart, interview with Kelsie Mart, 29 October 2017

Donut Shop in Parsons, Kansas. Jennifer, Jeffrey, and Kelsie only spent a few short months in the duplex before a fire broke out on the other side, which caused the small family of three to move into Jeffrey's parents house for a couple of weeks. By this time, both Jennifer and Jeffrey realized that their relationship wasn't healthy and that they wanted a divorce.

Jennifer and Jeffrey's divorce was quick and easy and there were no hard feelings. They both realized that they weren't right for each other, and that they wanted to remain friends in order to raise Kelsie in a civilized manner. Eventually, they both moved on and both Jennifer and Jeffrey only wanted what was best for Kelsie.

GENERATION THREE

A1a1. Cynthia Kathleen Davidson Traxson (1955-)

A1a2. Charles Scott Traxson (1949-)

A1b1. Lou Ann Hayes Mart (1955-)

A1b2. Robert Wayne Mart (1951-)

Kelsie's grandmother, **Cynthia Kathleen Davidson Traxson (1955-)**, was born in Joplin, Missouri, on 28 June 1955 to **Doris Kathleen Davidson Stevens (1930-1996)** and **Denzil**

Allen Davidson (1927-1999). Cynthia has two sisters, **Patricia Davidson Bennett (1960-)** and **Peggy Dianne Davidson Palmer (1953-1996)**⁴.

After Cynthia and Charles divorced, Cynthia did her own thing for a while. Cynthia worked as a florist for a while before moving to Naples, Florida. Cynthia and Charles' son, Joshua, was having some personal struggles at the time and decided to move up to Florida for a couple of years with his mother.

Kelsie's grandfather, **Charles Scott Traxson (1949-)**, was born 21 June 1949 in Mayes County, Oklahoma, to **Helen Todd Traxson (1920-2004)** and **Frederick Gail Traxson (1918-2003)**. Charles has one brother, **Steven Gail Traxson (1946-)**.

While raising both Jennifer and Joshua, Charles introduced the two at a young age to the Methodist Church. The Methodist Church not only plays an important role in the Traxson family, but also in Southeast Kansas. The United Methodist Church allows for a wide range of theological and political beliefs. The flexibility that the United Methodist Church possesses is one of their strongest qualities⁵.

Kelsie's grandmother on her fathers side, **Lou Ann Hayes Mart (1955-)**, was born 31 January 1955. Lou Ann was adopted, so she doesn't have information on her biological parents. She was adopted by **Margaret Jane Matthews Hayes (1924-2015)** and **Everette F. Hayes (1921-)**. Lou Ann has one brother, **Thomas Hayes (1956-)**. Lou Ann graduated from high school in Hutchinson, Kansas, and then moved to Parsons, Kansas, with her husband, Robert Mart, soon after getting married. Lou Ann got her bachelor's degree in music education from Pittsburg State University.

Kelsie's grandfather on her fathers side, **Robert Wayne Mart (1951-)**, was born 20 February 1951 in Grand Island, Buffalo County, Nebraska, to **Anna Katherine O'Neill Mart**

⁴ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/84929617/Peggy-Dianne-Palmer>

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Methodist_Church

(1928-) and Lloyd Wendell Mart (1926-2000). Robert worked for Westar Energy his entire life and just retired in 2017.

In Figure 4.13, “Americans Who Said That Elderly Parents Living with Their Adult Children Is a “Bad Idea,” by Year and Education” the chart shows the types of people who thought that elderly parents living with their adult children was a bad idea. There were actually fewer Americans that objected to the idea, but for the ones that did, they were split into different categories such as Americans who had no diploma, Americans who had a high school diploma, Americans who had some college, and Americans that had a college degree. Americans with college degrees were found to be the least objected to the idea. Kelsie’s grandmother and grandfather Mart both have college degrees and they both take care of their parents in their home. They are glad that their parents are able to be around family in their old age rather than in a nursing home. They both get to live comfortably at home with their children caring for them for what ever it is that they may need. Kelsie’s Great-Grandfather Hayes and Great-Grandmother Mart are the only great-grandparents of Kelsie’s that are still living, so it’s really nice to know that they are comfortable in their own homes and being cared for by the people that love them the most.⁶

Most of Kelsie’s family is from Hutchinson, KS, also known as "Salt City" due to it being the home to Salt Mines since 1887. The city was founded in 1871 when a contract was made with the Santa Fe Railway to make a town at the railroad crossing over the Arkansas River, Hutchinson was then incorporated as a city in August 1872. Kelsie might have had relatives who settled in the area and helped with the railroad. What Hutchinson is best known for is being the host of the Kansas State Fair, as well as being the home of the Kansas Cosmosphere and

⁶ Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 93.

Space Center Museum. The Kansas State fair is the largest single event in Kansas, so for Hutchinson to host it is a big deal. Generations of Kelsie's family have worked the State Fair and have also been a part of the behind-the-scenes aspects of the fair as well.⁷

GENERATION FOUR

A1a1a. Doris Kathleen Stevens Davidson (1930-1996)
A1a1b. Denzil Allen Davidson (1927-1999)

A1a2a. Helen Todd Traxson (1920-2004)
A1a2b. Frederick Gail Traxson (1918-2003)

A1b1a. Margaret Jane Matthews Hayes (1924-2015)
A1b1b. Everette F. Hayes II (1921-)

A1b2a. Anna Katherine O'Neill Mart (1928-)
A1b2b. Lloyd Wendell Mart (1926-2000)

Kelsie's great-grandmother, **Doris Kathleen Stevens Davidson (1930-1996)**⁸, was born 1 April 1930 in Sterling, Kansas, to **Grace Estelle Key Stevens (1892-1962)** and **Ottis Manford**

⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hutchinson,_Kansas

⁸ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/84710606>

Stevens (1890-1979). Doris died 24 June 1996 and is buried at Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Altamont, Kansas.

Kelsie's great-grandfather, **Denzil Allen Davidson (1927-1999)**⁹, was born 9 May 1927 in Altamont, Labette County, Kansas, to **Geneva Esther Tullis Davidson (1906-1986)** and **Alva Francis Davidson (1903-1984)**. Denzil grew up and attended schools in Labette County and graduated from Labette County Community High School in 1945. After graduating, Denzil joined the U.S. Army. Following the army, Denzil returned to Altamont, Kansas, and was employed at the former Ankortite for 18 years. Denzil later became the utility supervisor for the City of Altamont, where he served in this position for 27 years until he retired 1 May 1995. Denzil married Doris K. Stevens on April 4, 1948 in Altamont, Kansas. Denzil enjoyed playing slow pitch softball, baseball, bowling, and coaching his children and grandchildren. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Denzil played on a semi-professional baseball team, the Shaffer Oilers. Denzil also enjoyed hunting. Denzil was a member of the Bryant-Sykes Post No. 3399 Veterans of Foreign Wars in Oswego, Kansas.

Kelsie's great-grandmother, **Helen Todd Traxson (1920-2004)**¹⁰, was born November 2 1920 in rural Altamont, Kansas, to **Earl E. (1895-1963)** and **Alpha May Deff Todd (1897-1979)**. Helen lived in Altamont, Kansas, most of her life except for when her husband was in the service. Helen worked as a secretary at the Altamont Grade School and was a secretary/teller at the Labette County State Bank until she retired in 1982. Helen was a member of the United Methodist Church of Altamont, Kansas. Helen was a former Eastern Star. She loved flower gardening and refinishing oak furniture.

Kelsie's great-grandfather, **Frederick Gail Traxson (1918-2003)**¹¹, was born 25 October 1918 near Angola, Labette County, Kansas, to **Estella Sharp Hoobler Traxson (1882-1978)**

⁹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/77235658/Denzil-Allen-Davidson>

¹⁰ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/84936233/Helen-M-Traxson>

¹¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/84936178>

and **Frederick Charles Traxson (1879-1952)**. Frederick's obituary was taken from *The Labette Avenue* – Frederick died at Freeman West of Joplin, Missouri, on Sunday, February 16, 2003. Frederick served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He married Helen Todd on July 15, 1943 at National City, California. He spent almost all of his life in Labette County, except for when he was in the service. Frederick retired from Twin Valley Electric of Altamont, Kansas, in 1981 as Line Superintendent. Frederick was a member of the Altamont AF & AM Masonic Lodge #69.

In figure 5.2, "The Civilian Workforce and Labor Force Participation Rate, by Gender, 1900 to 2000," women's growing labor force participation increased the size of the labor force and narrowed the gender gap. In 1960 when both Frederick and Helen were working, the participation rate for women in the labor force was at about 30%, and for men the rate was at about 75%. Men had a much higher rate for being in the labor force than women did, but in Frederick and Helen's case, they both were in the work force¹².

Kelsie's great-grandmother, **Margaret Jane Matthews Hayes (1924-2015)**¹³, was born 18 August 1924 in Yates Center, Woodson County, Kansas, to **Clara May Baldwin Matthews (1880-1966)** and **William Thomas Matthews (1877-1957)**. Margaret graduated from Hutchinson High School in 1942 and then Hutchinson Community College in 1944. Margaret was a member of the First United Methodist Church since 1947, Kansas Writers Club, and she was an exemplar member of Beta Sigma Phi. Margaret was a substitute teacher for 10 years and sold Avon for over 35 years, being the top salesperson in Hutchinson, Kansas.

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), 102.

¹³ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/155664769>

In figure 8.5, “Protestants’ Specific Denominations, by Cohort (Year Turned Sixteen),” Baptists and others increased, while Methodists declined. From 1920 to 2000, Methodists had a significant drop in percentage of Protestants. In 1920, Methodists were at about 25% and dropped by about 5% every 20 years. In year 2000, the percentage of Methodists was at about 10%. Margaret Hayes was a proud Methodist and attended church every Sunday, only stopping once her health started to go downhill¹⁴.

Kelsie’s great-grandfather, **Everette F. Hayes II (1921-)**, was born in 1921 in Virgil, Greenwood County, Kansas, to **Jessie B. Evans Hays (1898-1992)** and **Everette F. Hays (1895-1921)**. Everette married Margaret on October 16, 1943 in San Antonio, Texas. Everette II’s biological father died several months before he was born¹⁵.

Kelsie’s great-grandmother, **Anna Katherine O’Neill Mart (1928-)**, was born 23 August 1928 in Gibbon, Buffalo County, Nebraska, to **Edith May Anderson O’Neill (1896-1986)** and **Daniel Elmer O’Neill (1887-1951)**. Kelsie’s great-grandfather, Anna’s husband, **Lloyd Wendell Mart (1926-2000)**, was born on 5 May 1926 in Houston, York County, Nebraska, to **Gladys Pearl Gibbins Mart (1894-1981)** and **Walter Ray Mart (1889-1951)**. Lloyd was a Veteran of the US Navy in World War II. Lloyd was enlisted 26 May 1943 and his release date was 5 May 1947.

Both of Kelsie’s grandmother and grandfather Mart’s parents eventually settled in Hutchinson, Kansas. The *Hutchinson Gazette* included information regarding the county, both regional and national news, monopolies, legal notices and public sales, and illustrative political cartoons.

Kelsie’s great-grandparents more than likely read the *Hutchinson Gazette* in order to keep up

¹⁴ Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 197.

¹⁵ Lou Ann Mart, e-mail message to Kelsie Mart, October 21, 2017.

with the local news and politics. Some of Kelsie's family farmed, and it was important at the time for farmers to keep a closer tab on the doings of the world, so the paper was especially important to them as they farmed their crops¹⁶.

GENERATION FIVE

- Ala1a1. Grace Estelle Key Stevens (1892-1962)
- Ala1a2. Ottis Manford Stevens (1890-1979)

- Ala1b1. Geneva Esther Tullis Davidson (1906-1986)
- Ala1b2. Alva Francis Davidson (1903-1984)

- Ala2a1. Alpha May Deff Todd (1897-1979)
- Ala2a2. Earl E. Todd (1895-1963)

- Ala2b1. Estella Sharp Hoobler Traxson (1882-1978)
- Ala2b2. Frederick Charles Traxson (1879-1952)

- Alb1a1. Jessie B. Evans Hays (1898-1992)
- Alb1a2. Everette F. Hayes I (1895-1921)

- Alb1b1. Clara May Baldwin Matthews (1877-1975)
- Alb1b2. William Thomas Matthews (1877-1957)

- Alb2a1. Edith May Anderson O'Neill (1896-1986)
- Alb2a2. Daniel Elmer O'Neill (1887-1951)

- Alb2b1. Gladys Pearl Gibbins Mart (1894-1981)
- Alb2b2. Walter Ray Mart (1889-1959)

¹⁶ *Hutchinson gazette*. (Hutchinson, Kan.), 17 Jan. 1895. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85030687/1895-01-17/ed-1/seq-1/>>

Kelsie's great-great grandmother, **Grace Estelle Key Stevens (1892-1962)**¹⁷ was born 7 February 1892 in Cloud, Kansas, to **Jessie Leona Moore Key (1874-1955)** and **James Edward Key (1865-unk)**. Grace died in 1962¹⁸. According to past generations, the Key's are related to Francis Scott Key, writer of the Star Spangled Banner. This has not been proven, and no information on this being true has been found.

Kelsie's great-great grandfather, **Ottis Manford Stevens (1890-1979)**¹⁹ was born 13 May 1890 in Labette County, Kansas to **Emma Amanda Brown Stevens (1860-1950)** and **Edwin James Stevens (1859-1911)**. Grace and Ottis were married 11 September 1914 near Hutchinson, Kansas. Together, Grace and Ottis had six children – Edwin James, Gerald Key, Herald Key, Ottis Manford, Ruby Grace, and Doris Kathleen. Otis died 18 April 1979²⁰.

Kelsie's great-great-grandmother, **Alpha May Deff Todd (1897-1979)**²¹ was born 1 November 1897. Alpha died 6 April 1979. Kelsie's great-great-grandfather, Alpha's husband, **Earl E. Todd (1895-1963)** was born 3 March 1896. Earl died 28 March 1963. There is no additional information over Alpha and Earl at this time.

According to family talk, the Todd's may have been farmers²². *The Hays Free Press* described in their February 17, 1921 newspaper that Labette County now leads all others in farm bureau members, having 1,179 at the time²³.

¹⁷ "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/M2CW-TGQ> : accessed 21 November 2017), Grace Key in household of James E Key, Dodge Ward 1, Ford, Kansas, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 45, sheet 19A, family 30, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 439; FHL microfilm 1,374,452.

¹⁸ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/84412346/Grace-Estella-Stevens>

¹⁹ "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/M2CN-NV8> : accessed 21 November 2017), Ottis Stevens in household of Edwin Stevens, Fairview, Labette, Kansas, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 130, sheet 5A, family 106, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 444; FHL microfilm 1,374,457.

²⁰ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/91622014/Ottis-Manford-Stevens>

²¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/94334142/Alpha-May-Todd>

²² Charles Traxson, personal memory of family stories

Kelsie's great-great grandmother, **Geneva Esther Tullis Davidson (1906-1986)** was born 29 March 1906 in Bartlett, Labette County, Kansas to **Bessie Nina Stebbins Tullis (1878-1943)** and **Leroy Tullis (1875-1953)**. Geneva died 2 January 1986 in Altamont, Labette County, Kansas. Kelsie's great-great grandfather, Geneva's husband, **Alva Francis Davidson (1903-1984)** was born 25 October 1903 in Oswego, Labette County, Kansas to **Clara Lamenda Shepard Davidson (1881-1966)** and **Benjamin Franklin Davidson (1873-1943)**. Alva died 3 October 1984 in Altamont, Labette County, Kansas. Alva and Geneva married on October 25, 1926 in Oswego, Labette County, Kansas.

The Topeka State Journal had information on different things that were happening in Labette County at times. In the March 29, 1902 newspaper, there is an article titled "Political Gossip" that states that Labette County is the center of interest. The Republican County Convention was held there and was extremely important for the reason that its result may alter to a great degree the gubernatorial race²⁴. The parents of generation five more than likely found great interest in this newspaper, and possibly even the Republican County Convention that was held in Labette County, Kansas.

Kelsie's great-great grandmother, **Estella Sharp Hoobler Traxson (1882-1978)** was born in 1882 in Jack County, Texas to **Annabella D. Sharp Hoobler (1852-1927)** and **George W. Hoobler (1852-1922)**. Kelsie's great-great grandfather, **Frederick Charles Traxson (1879-1952)** was born on 9 November 1879 in Jacks, Texas to **Elizabeth Prescilla Mapes Traxson**

²³ *The Hays free press*. (Hays, Kan.), 17 Feb. 1921. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84029690/1921-02-17/ed-1/seq-1/>>

²⁴ *The Topeka state journal*. (Topeka, Kan.), 29 March 1902. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn82016014/1902-03-29/ed-1/seq-3/>>

(1849-1926) and **William Samuel “Skipper” Traxson (1846-1930)**. Estella and Frederick were married 24 February 1903 in Oswego, Kansas.

Kelsie's great-great grandmother, **Jessie B. Evans Hays (1898-1992)** was born in 1898 in Virgil, Kansas. Kelsie's great-great grandfather, **Everette F. Hayes I (1895-1921)** was born in 1895 in Virgil, Kansas. Everette I's biological last name was actually spelled "Hays". He was gassed in WWI and died from it. The Army misspelled his name "Hays" to read "Hayes" on their discharge/death paperwork. Jessie B. Evans Hays had to legally change the spelling of hers and her son's, Everette Hayes II, to match the Army's spelling screw-up so that they could get Everette I's death benefits. Jessie B. Evans married a man named **James E. Campbell (1925-1980)** four years after she was widowed²⁵. James E. Campbell raised Everette II²⁶.

Kelsie's great-great grandmother, **Clara May Baldwin Matthews (1877-1975)** was born on 2 October 1880 in Bloomington, McLean County, Illinois to **William Sebert Baldwin (1858-1918)**. Her mother is unknown. Kelsie's great-great grandfather, **William Thomas Matthews (1877-1957)** was born 23 May 1877 in Wyandotte County, Kansas to **Victoria Jane Julia Dryden Matthews (1840-1914)** and **Daniel Donald Matthews (1831-1915)**. Clara and William were married 30 January 1901 in Yates Center, Woodson County, Kansas.

Kelsie's great-great grandmother, **Edith May Anderson O'Neill (1896-1986)**²⁷ was born 3 April 1896 in Mason, Custer County, Nebraska to **Ella Maria Anderson (1868-1949)** and **Alonzo Childs Anderson (1859-1899)**. Alonzo and Ella were first cousins. Their fathers were brothers. Ella Anderson was the daughter of Abram Anderson and Jane Davis. Jane Davis' parents, **William S. Davis (1805-1837)** and **Sophia Chaney (1810-1886)**²⁸, were second

²⁵ Lou Ann Mart, e-mail message to Kelsie Mart, October 21, 2017.

²⁶ Everette Hayes II, personal memory.

²⁷ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/38500628/Edith-May-O'Neill>

²⁸ "West Virginia Marriages, 1780-1970," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/FB14-6L2> : 4 December 2014), William S Davis and Sophia Chana, 1827; citing Tyler, West Virginia, United States, , county clerks, West Virginia; FHL microfilm 1,862,796.

cousins. William S. Davis died in 1837 in a tornado in Doddridge Co, west of Virginia, with him and Sophia's 5-year-old daughter, Harriet. Jane Davis is Ella Maria Anderson's mother²⁹.

Kelsie's great-great grandfather, **Daniel Elmer O'Neill (1887-1951)**³⁰ was born 25 March 1887 in Ballycastle, Antrim, Ireland to **Christina Mary Canning O'Neill (1861-1940)** and **Robert O'Neill (1862-1945)**. Daniel had a stillborn twin brother, Canning O'Neill, who is buried in County Antrim, Ireland. The family came to America in 1888, settling first in Chicago and then in the Ravenna area. Edith and Daniel were married 29 May 1916 in Pleasanton, Buffalo County, Nebraska³¹. Edith and Daniel had two children, **Infant O'Neill (1916-1916)**³² and **Clarence Joseph O'Neill (1922-2017)**³³. Infant O'Neill only lived from October 2-29.

Ravenna, Nebraska was founded in 1886 when the Burlington Railroad was extended to that point. It was named after the city of Ravenna, Italy. Ravenna was incorporated in October 1886. The 1890 census' historical population for Ravenna was 628. In 1900, the historical population was 808. It was more than likely that in this 10 year span, the O'Neill's had settled here. The 2010 historical population census states that the population in Ravenna was 1,360. Ravenna is host to the annual city celebration named Annevar, which is Revenna spelled backwards³⁴.

Kelsie's great-great grandmother, **Gladys Pearl Gibbins Mart (1894-1981)**³⁵ was born 17 November 1894 in Sac Township, Sac, Iowa to **Martha Ellen Calkins Gibbins (1862-1931)** and

²⁹ Sheila Ann Young, e-mail message to Kelsie Mart, November 13, 2017.

³⁰ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/38500612>

³¹ "Nebraska Marriages, 1855-1995," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q298-GKFW> : 18 April 2016), Daniel E. O'Neill and Edith May Anderson, 29 May 1916, Pleasanton, Buffalo, Nebraska, United States; citing ref. ID #p 615, Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln.

³² <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/38501021/Infant-O'Neill>

³³ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/183027110/Clarence-Joseph-O'Neill>

³⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ravenna,_Nebraska

³⁵ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/73573608/Gladys-Mart>

Joseph Adison Gibbins (1856-1916). Gladys Mart died 19 December 1981 and is buried at Lushton Cemetery in Lushton, York County, Nebraska.

The Calkins Family Association believes that a Mart ancestor, Joshua Calkins, descends from Hugh Calkins, who arrived in America in 1640 and was the son of Rowland Calkins of Cheshire, England³⁶.

Cheshire is a county in North West England, bordering Merseyside and Greater Manchester to the north, Derbyshire to the east, Staffordshire and Shropshire to the south, and Wales to the west. The county covers 905 square miles and has a population of around one million. Cheshire is mostly rural with a number of small towns and villages supporting the agricultural and other industries which produce Cheshire cheese, salt, chemicals and silk. It's thought that the county was created by Edward the Elder around 920³⁷.

Kelsie's great-great grandfather, **Walter Ray Mart (1889-1959)**³⁸ was born 8 October 1889 in Plattsmouth, Cass, Nebraska to **Josephine Fern Henderson Mart (1857-1917)** and **William Sanford Jr. Mart (1857-1911)**. Gladys and Walter were married in 1915 in Nebraska.

According to family talk, William Sanford Mart I was illegitimate. It's more than possible that John Jefferson Mart is his stepfather. Also, there was talk of the Vaden daughters. The Mart's descended from two of Burwell Vaden's daughters - Sandal Vaden and Mary (who went by the name of Polley) Vaden. Sandal Vaden married Joseph Mart. Their son John Jefferson Mart married Catherine Crane, daughter of Polley Vaden and William Crane. So, they were first cousins. Also, Martha Fowler, the wife of Henry Vaden II, was born in 1696. Martha was the daughter of Godfrey Fowler, born in 1670. Godfrey was the son of John Fowler. Most Fowler

³⁶ Sheila Ann Young, e-mail message to Kelsie Mart, November 13, 2017.

³⁷ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cheshire>

³⁸ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/73573611/Walter-R-Mart>

genealogists believe that this John Fowler was the son of the Reverend Christopher Fowler of Marlborough, England, born in 1638 in Marlborough³⁹.

³⁹ Sheila Ann Young, e-mail message to Kelsie Mart, November 13, 2017.