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The Family History of Victoria West

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**The Family History of
Victoria Shirley West**

21 November 2017

Victoria West 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 Pittsburg State University Digital Commons. Please contact the author directly with any questions or comments:
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List of Direct Line Family Members

Generation One

- A1. Victoria West (1991-)
- A2. Tyler West (1991-)

Generation Two

- Ala. Cynthia "Cyndy" Jo Sybert-Lewis (1955-)
- Alb. Victor Lewis (1960-)
- Alc. Melissa Goltz (unk-)
- Ald. Daniel Banhart (unk-)

Generation Three

- Ala1. Shirley Lane Sybert (1927-)
- Ala2. Robert "Bob" William Sybert (1924-1984)

- Alb1. Jeanie Lewis (unk-)
- Alb2. Gene Lewis (unk-)

- Alc1. Paulette Wyssbroad Goltz (unk-)
- Alc2. Unknown

- Ald1: Unknown
- Ald2: Unknown

Generation Four

- Ala1a. Anna Marie "Nancie" Klier Lane (1905-1956)
- Ala1b. Oral T. Lane (1886-1977)

- Ala2a. Sadie Cruelly-Sybert (unk.)
- Ala2b. William Robert Sybert (unk.)

- Alb1a. Unknown
- Alb1b. Unknown

- Alb2a. Unknown
- Alb2b. Unknown

- Alc1a. Unknown
- Alc1b. Unknown

- Alc2a. Unknown
- Alc2b. Unknown

A1d1a. Unknown
A1d1b. Unknown

A1d2a. Unknown
A1d2b. Unknown

GENERATION ONE

Victoria Shirley Lewis West (1991-) was born at a hospital in Dallas, Texas in 1991 to Melissa Goltz and Daniel Barnhart. Melissa, of Lake Jackson, Texas was staying in Dallas patiently awaiting the arrival of Victora, with her fist born daughter, Amber Goltz (1988-) and a close friend; knowing that hours after giving birth she would be giving her baby to her adoptive parents, Cynthia Lewis (1955-) and Victor Lewis (1960-) Labor and delivery went smoothly, and at 1:08 AM on January 7th, Melissa gave birth to a healthy 8 lb. 14 oz. baby girl.¹

After saying their goodbyes, Cyndy and Victor Lewis left the Dallas hospital with their newborn baby to spend time with Victor's family before returning to Carl Junction, Missouri. On January 11th, 1991 Cyndy, Victor, and Victoria returned to their large white home that set on top of the hill on County Road 290 in Carl Junction, Missouri.² Victoria would know nothing of her adoption for many years.

As a toddler Victoria enjoyed exploring her surroundings in the country; she enjoyed helping her Mom in the garden, going fishing with her parents on their land in their small

¹ Melissa Goltz, e-mail message to Victoria West, November 10, 2017

² Cyndy's memory, verbal account, October 29, 2017

paddleboat, eating turkey, cheese, and mayonnaise sandwiches with her Dad, and annoying all four of the family dogs.

One of Victoria's earliest memories was getting stuck in the middle of a blizzard after being picked up from her babysitter's house. Cyndy was working as a Registered Nurse at a Joplin hospital at this time, and on this particular night, she had worked later than usual causing the two to be caught in a blizzard. A very nice man in a large truck had spotted the two, and stopped to help get them home safely. Cyndy and Victoria returned home to an angry Victor who had, once again, let the alcohol get the better of him; an all too frequent occurrence. This was just the beginning of a slew of bad memories Victoria would have of her father.

The Great Escape

As time went on, Victoria, no more than 2 - 3 years of age, witnessed her father change drastically. He went from a strong, hardworking man, to a man who no longer worked, returned home at all hours of the night, slept all day, was quick to anger, and was becoming violent. Being told to hide in a small area of the house was a new reality for the toddler. One particular night, Victor had gone too far, and Cyndy had finally had enough; she got Victoria ready, and they made their way out of the house. As they reached the kitchen, Victor came barreling out of another room, quickly grabbing pots, pans, kitchen utensils, and

anything else he could get his hands on to throw at the two making their escape. Cyndy and Victoria made it out the door without any serious injuries and drove to Pittsburg to Victoria's favorite person's home, her Grandma Shirley.

Victoria and Cyndy became residents of Pittsburg, Kansas in November of 1993 when they moved into Shirley's home on Ohio Street. The months and even years following the divorce of Victoria's parents were rough and not without the occasional threatening phone call that caused the three to flee to a relative's home out of town in fear of what Victor was capable of. Eventually Victor landed himself in prison, and life finally calmed down. Nearly all of Victoria's most cherished memories occurred at her Grandma's house; surrounded by her very large, very loving family.

Lyman & Virginia Lane

Victoria has many fond memories of her Great Aunt Virginia (1939-2014) and Great Uncle Lyman (1929-) of Cherokee, Kansas. Lyman and Virginia lived in a gorgeous white home that was brimming with antique oddities; from silver tea sets and rotary phones, to hobnail milk glass and decorative floral Victorian vases, their home felt like a life-size Victorian dollhouse. Victoria spent many Saturday nights with them and the three would often whip up some fudge and enjoy an old musical together. Lyman and Virginia were a happy, fun loving couple who

kept each other and everyone around them entertained. Sunday afternoons after church were also spent at Lyman and Virginia's, enjoying a large Sunday lunch that always included a favorite of Victoria's; one of Virginia's specialties, homemade bread. Sunday afternoons typically consisted of a nap and short walk to Bessie Sizemore's home just across the road from Lyman and Virginia. Sunday evenings however, were Victoria's favorite, this was the time the whole family went to the antique shop that Lyman owned. Lane's Antiques was two blocks over from Lyman and Virginia's home; once a small old church that Shirley, Lyman, and their other five sibling's father preached at years before.³ Lane's Antiques was where Victoria's obsession with living history began.

Lane's Antiques

A mediocre small, white building on the outside, Lane's Antiques made Victoria feel as though she had stepped back in time, every time she set foot in the drafty, musty building. Soon after walking in, Lyman would put on some music, typically Glenn Miller or another big band; while the adults would find a small area to dance in, Victoria would wander. The small room with emerald green carpet and the player piano was a favorite, as were the glass counters filled with brooches, earrings, and

³ Lyman's memory, verbal account, September 30, 2017

necklaces. There was decorative glassware, kitchen appliances, paintings, lavish mirrors, sheet music, ads, records, photographs, furniture, clothing, toys - all from generations past that Victoria could look at for days. Several years worth of Sunday evenings and holiday were spent here until the early 2000s when all the antiques were placed in a series of storage units, and the old building became Cherokee Holiness Church once again. All the wonderful moments Victoria experienced in the antique shop occurred long before digital photography was at our fingertips. Aside from some antique jewelry, and home décor, memories are all that Victoria has today of Lane's Antiques.

School Days

In August of 1995 Victoria began preschool at Smart Start Preschool. The preschool was only a year old at the time, and sat in the countryside just Southwest of Pittsburg. Though a very shy child, Victoria loved going to preschool. Having no siblings and no young family members, this was the first time Victoria had spent time with children her own age. She quickly learned that children her age were okay, but much preferred the company of her Grandma, or other adults. Every evening Victoria would take part in her Grandma's nightly skincare routine of cleansing and moisturizing, while watching the *Nick at Night* lineup that consisted of *The Munsters*, *Happy Days*, and *I Love Lucy*. Victoria's Grandma remained her best companion.

Victoria attended George Nettles Elementary School from Kindergarten to 5th Grade. While Victoria adjusted well to her new surroundings, she continued to prefer the company of her adult family. In the spring of Victoria's Kindergarten school year, Victoria was informed she was to begin piano lessons once a week after school. Unsure of what to think, Victoria reluctantly attended her first lesson.

Jeanine Armstrong was a sweet old lady who lived just a few blocks from Victoria. She was obsessed with dogs, and she and Victoria became fast friends. Piano lessons quickly turned to social hour and voice lessons. Victoria and Jeanine would enjoy graham crackers and sing show tunes only sweet old ladies and Victoria would know of. Before heading home, Victoria would always use Jeanine's bathroom for one reason: to look at all her makeup and try on her lipsticks; only to quickly wash off the vibrant colors before she had to leave. Piano was never something Victoria cared much for, but she loved spending one day every week with Jeanine, singing show tunes, and secretly trying on makeup.

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

Christmastime was taken very seriously in Victoria's family, and for this reason, it was her favorite holiday. Festivities began the day after Thanksgiving when Shirley, Cyndy, and Victoria would put up their Christmas tree and

decorate the rest of the house. Victoria's favorite décor was her Christmas village that she set up all by herself every year. The following weeks consisted of lots of Christmas shopping, learning Christmas songs on the piano, and rehearsal for the church Christmas program. Christmas Eve would finally arrive after much anticipation and the entire family would gather at Victoria's grandma's house. The evening spread consisted of deli meats, cheeses, homemade Italian sausage, salads, and Christmas candy galore. After dinner, the aroma of Snickerdoodle coffee filled the house, and *It's a Wonderful Life* would be playing on the television. It was finally time to open presents from relatives and choose a few things to begin playing with while the adults visited. Once the family left, Victoria set out cookies and milk, went to bed, and awoke ready to pack up gifts and head to Lyman and Virginia's house donning her best Christmas dress. As soon as Victoria walked into Lyman and Virginia's home, she could smell the wonderful dinner they would be enjoying later. Victoria and Virginia had a lot of things in common, one of those being their love of the holidays. Much like everything in their house, the Christmas décor had a certain antique flair. Virginia got out all the nice China to eat on, and after dinner, the entire family would go to the antique shop to enjoy old Christmas carols and each other's company.

Sweet Summertime

Though Victoria did very well in school, and was even placed in the gifted program in 1st - 5th grade, summertime was still her favorite. While Cyndy and Victoria had moved to a house across the street from Shirley, Cindy, being a nurse, worked a lot, meaning Victoria continued to spend a lot of time with her grandma. Summertime was full of long morning walks, fresh peaches, yard work, and a good amount of old movies. Every Tuesday during the summer Victoria would tagalong with her grandma while she got her hair done. Victoria found Tuesdays at the beauty shop boring, but as she grew older, the more thankful she became for all the summers spent there; Victoria mastered the tricky act of teasing her hair at a very young age.

Another fond memory Victoria has of summertime is Vacation Bible School and church camp meetings. Victoria's family was very religious and attended church regularly. Vacation Bible School was fun for Victoria because she got to see her church friends on weekdays, make fun crafts, and enjoy homemade cookies and ice cold Kool-Aid on the small wooden bridge where all the kids played. Summer camp meetings were held in the tabernacle, where there was no air conditioning. After church everyone would gather under a huge tent and enjoy sandwiches and fellowship; the night air was heavy, but every once in a while, a cool breeze would provide a brief relief from the humidity. Summers

came and went and soon Victoria found herself about to embark on a new adventure: middle school.

School Days (con't)

Victoria attended Pittsburg Middle School from 2002-2005. She was excited to attend middle school for several reasons, including the fact that her mother had attended the same school in the 1960s and 1970s, and she was also excited to attend Pittsburg Middle School because the building itself was beautiful, the exterior resembling a castle. Victoria's middle school experience was mediocre, consisting of more good happenings than bad, including meeting her lifelong best friend, and being overwhelmingly proud of herself for reading over one million words before the end of her 6th grade year. Three years of gruesome, mandatory gym class eventually passed, and it was now time for yet another new beginning.

Victoria attended Pittsburg High School from 2005 - 2009. The first day of freshman year was nothing short of intimidating; everyone seemed so much older and full of life experience. This, of course, Victoria came to find out was not true. Victoria's interest in antiques and vintage garments began to grow, and most weekends Victoria could be found rummaging antique shops with her mother; and thanks in part to her Grandma, her love of old music continued to grow as well. Victoria continued taking piano lessons and was now playing her

favorite songs by Glenn Miller, Nat King Cole, and Sinatra. Though her days of sneaking away to test lipstick shades were over, her piano teacher remained a close confidant in her life. At the age of 16, Victoria began her first job working as a receptionist at Via Christi Village. Like any typical teenager, Victoria remained busy with school, homework, FCCLA, theatre, choir, and a few close friends.

An Adoption Story

In the late fall of 2007, after experiencing her first breakup, in the middle of a phone call with her best friend, Victoria's mom said she needed to speak to her. Worried that this conversation was going to be about her below than average algebra grade, Victoria slowly and nervously made her way to her mom's bedroom. After what felt like an eternity of waiting, Victoria's mother began to cry. Confused, Victoria continued to wait patiently. After a minute or two, her mother said: "I'm not your Mom." Four words that made everything around Victoria come to a crashing halt. At first this felt like a cruel joke, but in an instant Victoria knew her mom would never joke like that. Victoria began to process what was happening, as her mom told her the story of her adoption and how it was agreed that the adoption would be 'closed;' meaning Victoria wasn't to know about her biological family, nor were they supposed to know

about her.⁴ Over the years, however, curiosity had gotten the best of her biological family, and they hired a private investigator to find Victoria.⁵ Still in a state of complete shock, Victoria got the opportunity to speak with her birth mother and biological grandmother on the phone. Finding out this news was life changing to say the least, and it would have been very easy for Victoria to be mad about the situation and cut herself off from her family, but Victoria knew that this was the family she belonged to. Cyndy was her Mom, and Shirley was her Grandma. All the memories remained the same; every Christmas Eve, birthday party, and family vacation. Victoria went to bed that night at peace, and with a whole lot of new family members. In the weeks and months to follow, Victoria did not allow this news to alter her relationship with her family in any way. While she was very curious about many things regarding her biological family, she kept these thoughts and feelings to herself, so as not to upset her family.

School Days (con' t)

Victoria remained busy throughout high school, and on a cold evening in February of 2008, Victoria had her first date with Tyler West, the star of all the high school theatre productions and the best bass voice in the choir. The two had

⁴ Cyndy's memory, verbal account, November 10, 2017

⁵ Melissa Goltz, e-mail message to Victoria West, November 5, 2017

dinner at the Mall Deli, then enjoyed the Sweeney Todd soundtrack as they drove to Starbucks to enjoy a couple of lattes as Nat King Cole played in the background. This would be the first of many dates as Tyler and Victoria continued to date throughout high school.

A fond memory Victoria has of her high school years are summer nights; more often than not Victoria could be found curled up in her favorite antique chair, eating Java Chip frozen yogurt out of the tub, and watching old movies into the wee hours of the morning. Her favorite films included *The Sound of Music*, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, and *Singing in the Rain*. As Victoria took in all the fashions, romantic dialogue, and gorgeous sceneries, she would have a very specific idea of what her life should be like from here on out.

Life As We Knew It

High school was coming to an end and while Tyler and Victoria believed they loved each other very much, life was pulling them in different directions .Victoria was staying in Pittsburg to continue working and attending college part-time, and Tyler was moving to Ohio to attend the University of Northwest Ohio. Not long after moving to Ohio however, Tyler experienced a bout of homesickness and moved back to his hometown of Girard, Kansas. Tyler and Victoria went for ice cream after the Christmas of 2012, and in February of 2013 Tyler

proposed to Victoria while they enjoyed dinner on the Missouri Arkansas train that was stopped on a bridge overlooking the Arkansas River. Tyler and Victoria currently reside in Joplin, Missouri with their dog Charlie.

As an adult Victoria remains extremely close to her Mom and Grandma; while she has kept in touch with her biological family, they don't play a very large role in her life. Victoria knew nothing of her biological Father until 2017, and has yet to contact him.

Generation Two

- Ala. Cynthia Jo Sybert-Lewis (1955-)**
- Alb. Victor Lewis (1960-)**
- Alc. Melissa Goltz (unk-)**

Ald. Daniel Banhart (unk-)

A1a. Cynthia Jo Sybert-Lewis (1955-) Cynthia "Cyndy" Jo Sybert-Lewis (1955-) was born on March 4, 1955 to Shirley Sybert (1927-) and Robert Sybert (1924-1984) of Pittsburg, Kansas. Cyndy grew up on Grand Street in Pittsburg, Kansas. She spent a great deal of her childhood at Nellie's, her next door neighbor's, house. Nellie worked as a nurse at Mt. Carmel Hospital, and would tell Cyndy stories about her work life. Hearing all the fascinating stories of Nellie's career influenced Cyndy, who would one day become a nurse herself.

Cyndy attended Pittsburg schools her whole life, and has several fond memories of attending Pittsburg High School; during which time her social life was everything. Cyndy and her friends attended dances at The Tower, "dragged the gut," which was slang for driving up and down Broadway Street in Pittsburg, getting the attention of peers, and skipping her senior prom to sell beer in the parking lot instead.

Cyndy went to Missouri Southern State University after graduating high school where she obtained her Bachelor degree in Nursing. Cyndy worked as a floor nurse at a Kansas City Hospital after graduation, during which time Cyndy survived solely on Tippin's Pies. Cyndy eventually moved to the Joplin, Missouri area where she met Victor Lewis. The two married in 1988, and

wanted to start a family. Unable to have children of their own, Cyndy and Victor adopted a baby in January of 1991.⁶

Cyndy and Victor separated and later divorced in the early 1990's, and Cyndy moved back to Pittsburg, Kansas. Cyndy resided in Pittsburg for 24 years before moving to Gardner, Kansas with her new husband, where she continues to work as a nurse, caring primarily for Alzheimer's patients.⁷

Alb. Victor Lewis (1960-) Victor was born in Dallas, Texas on August 27th, 1960. Details regarding how Victor came to live in Southwest Missouri are unknown, as are many details regarding Victor's life in general. However, after Victor and Cyndy married in 1988, and decided to adopt a child after not being able to have their own. Victor somehow knew of Melissa Goltz, who was searching for a family to adopt her unborn child that was due in January of 1991. Details of the adoption process are unknown, but Victor became a father on January 7th, 1991. Unfortunately Victor let alcohol and drug consumption get the better of him. Victor has not seen or spoken to his daughter in 23 years, his current whereabouts are unknown.⁸

Alc. Melissa Goltz (unk-) Nothing is known about Melissa's life until 1988 when she gave birth to her first daughter, Amber Goltz. A couple of years later, while trying to finish college,

⁶ Cyndy's memory, verbal account October 2017

⁷ Knowledge of author, Victoria West

⁸ Knowledge of author, Victoria West

Melissa found out she was expecting another baby girl. Unable to finish college and raise two young daughters at the same time, Melissa went against her boyfriend's wishes, and made the very difficult decision to give their baby up for adoption.

Melissa knew of a family that recently found out they were unable to have children, and made arrangements to give them her baby. As the months went by, as difficult as the decision had been, Melissa knew she had made the right choice. Late in the evening on January 6, 1991, Melissa went into labor; hours later, at 1:08 AM on the morning of January 7th, Melissa gave birth to a healthy baby girl. Melissa got to hold her daughter briefly before saying her goodbyes, and giving her to her new family. Melissa returned to Lake Jackson, Texas where she finished her fashion degree and opened her first boutique.

Melissa suffered with anxiety and depression over the next 17 years. Every year on January 7th Melissa and her family would get together to have a birthday party for her daughter Victoria.

By 2007 Melissa had had enough of not knowing what had become of her daughter. Though the adoption was agreed upon to be a closed adoption, curiosity got the better of her, and she hired a private investigator to find Victoria. Eventually the two were able to reconnect via telephone calls and social media, but have yet to meet each other face to face. Melissa still

resides in Lake Jackson, Texas, where she now owns a catering business.⁹

A1d. Daniel Banhart (unk-) No details are known about Daniel Barnhart's life until he and Melissa Goltz began dating in the late 1980's. In 1990 Melissa found out she was expecting a daughter; Daniel wanted so badly for the couple to get married, and have their daughter, but Melissa felt their daughter would have a better life if she was part of a different family, as the timing was not right for them. Hurt and angry, Daniel broke things off with Melissa, and moved to Brownfield, Texas. Daniel has never seen or talked to his daughter, as she has yet to reach out to him. He currently continues to reside in Brownfield, Texas with his wife and three children.¹⁰

Generation Three

A1a1. Shirley Lane Sybert (1927-)
A1a2. Robert William Sybert (1924-1984)

A1b1. Jeanie Lewis (unk-)
A1b2. Gene Lewis (unk-)

A1c1. Paulette Wyssbroad Goltz (unk-)
A1c2. Unknown

A1d1. Unknown
A1d2. Unknown

⁹ Melissa Goltz, e-mail message to Victoria West October 2017

¹⁰ Melissa Goltz, email message to Victoria West October 2017

Ala1. Shirley Lane Sybert (1927-) Shirley Lavon Sybert was born on September 24th, 1927 to Nancie and Oral Lane of West Mineral, Kansas. Born during the depression, Shirley's family didn't have much but a farm, farmhouse, and each other.

Shirley attended a one room school house until high school. When she wasn't in school, she was helping her parents and siblings on the farm or in the home. In an interview Shirley spoke of her life on the farm: "We didn't have much, but we didn't know that. Nobody had much of anything, so we weren't any different than other families we knew. I remember the wintertime being bitter cold, and every morning mama would get up and get the wood stove going; when I was little enough, I could curl up by it and go back to sleep." Christmastime on the farm was special as Shirley describes: "We didn't get much for presents, but my aunt, mama's sister, worked in Kansas City at a cookie factory. Every Christmas she would send us a tin of cookies. We would rush home from school every day until that package would finally get to us. We ate them in a hurry, and that was about it for sweets for all of us. We couldn't afford to go buy candy or anything, and mama didn't have a lot of the ingredients needed to make sweet stuff like cookies or cakes."

Shirley graduated high school at the age of 16, and began working soon after. She left the family farm and moved to an apartment in Pittsburg, Kansas with a close friend in 1943.

Although she had left the family farm, Shirley remembers continuing to help out however and whenever she could: "Mama's health started to fail, and she couldn't do a lot of things around the house like she used to. I'd go out to the house and help her cook, and clean, and I would make her new clothes whenever she needed something. She always wanted her clothes to be handmade, because that's all she ever had. Her family didn't have money to spend on clothes, and trying to raise a big family during the Depression meant she sure never spent money on new clothes. Most of the time we wore feed sack clothes." Shirley worked a lot, but when she wasn't working, she could be found attending dances at the local dance halls most Friday and Saturday nights, the most popular being The Tower on North Broadway. Shirley met Robert Sybert (1924-1984) at a dance, and after dating for a short time, Robert convinced Shirley to elope one night; Shirley and Bob were married on New Years Eve of 1952.

Shirley continued to work for the Census Bureau while Bob attended and eventually graduated college. In March of 1955 Shirley gave birth to her first and only daughter, Cynthia (1955-).

Shirley eventually left her job at the Census Bureau to work for Prudential Insurance Company where she retired from in the late 1980's after Bob passed away from lung cancer. Shirley

moved from her house on Grand Street to a house on Ohio street where she currently resides. Shirley recently celebrated her 90th birthday surrounded by her whole family.¹¹

Ala2. Robert William Sybert (1924-1984)¹² Robert "Bob" William Sybert (1924-1984) was born to Sadie Cruelly Sybert and William Robert Sybert of Pittsburg, Kansas. Bob had a poor relationship with his father, but remained somewhat close to his mother, and two sisters.

Bob attended Pittsburg schools until, after a long night, decided to enlist in the Navy during WWII. Bob was sent away soon after enlisting, before he was able to graduate from high school. Not long after Bob returned home, one night at The Tower dance hall, Bob met Shirley Lane. Not long after they began dating, Bob convinced Shirley they should get married, and the two eloped not long after.

Bob graduated from Pittsburg State University in the early 1950's, and on March 4th, 1955 Bob became a father to Cyndy Sybert. Bob worked at the welfare office in Pittsburg for several years until he grew sick with lunch cancer. The cancer progressed quickly, and Bob passed away in 1984.¹³

¹¹ Shirley's memory, verbal account, October 2017

¹² E-mail message to Victoria West October 2017

¹³ Shirley's memory, verbal account, October 2017

Generation Four

A1a1a. Anna Marie "Nancie" Klier Lane (1905-1956)

A1a1b. Oral T. Lane (1886-1977)

A1a2a. Sadie Cruelly-Sybert (unk.)

A1a2b. William Robert Sybert (unk.)

A1b1a. Unknown

A1b1b. Unknown

A1b2a. Unknown

A1b2b. Unknown

A1c1a. Unknown

A1c1b. Unknown

A1c2a. Unknown

A1c2b. Unknown

A1d1a. Unknown

A1d1b. Unknown

A1d2a. Unknown

A1d2b. Unknown

A1a1a. Anna Marie "Nancie" Klier Lane (1905-1956)¹⁴ Nancie Klier married Oral T. Lane in the 1910's, and together they had seven children, the youngest dying at a young age due to influenza.

¹⁴ Lyman's memory, verbal account, November 2017

Nancie raised six children in their large farmhouse near Cherokee, Kansas. Nancie passed away in 1956 due to a hemorrhage.

Short stories and details about Nancie's life and personality have been passed down for several generations. It has been said by many family members that Nancie was a wonderful cook, making everything from scratch. Noodles, dumplings, bread, and grits being her most talked about dishes. While Oral tended to the farm, Nancie tended to the home and family; being of German ancestry Nancie would often go around the house singing songs from her childhood in German.¹⁵

Ala1b. Oral T. Lane (1886-1977)¹⁶ Oral T. Lane married Nancie Klier and together they had a total of seven children, raising six of them in their farmhouse together. Aside from being a father, and a farmer, Oral was also the preacher at the Cherokee Holiness Church in Cherokee, Kansas. Oral passed away in 1977 due to old age.

A popular story amongst the Lane family about Oral is about how much he loved to make and eat homemade ice cream. At family gatherings for summer holidays, or family gatherings Sunday afternoons after church, Oral could often be heard exclaiming he

¹⁵ Lyman and Shirley's memory, verbal account, October 2017

¹⁶ Shirley's memory, verbal account, October 2017

had a brain freeze due to eating his homemade ice cream too fast.

A1a2a. Sadie Cruelly-Sybert (unk.) Not much is known about Sadie Cruelly Sybert as her son, Bob, did not talk much about his parents with his family. Sadie's granddaughter Cyndy knew only of her love of Bloody Mary's and putting oysters in her salad dressing.¹⁷

A1a2b. William Robert Sybert (unk.) William and his son Bob did not have a good relationship, as William was believed to be quick to anger and violent. William would visit Bob occasionally in Pittsburg, Kansas when Bob's wife, Shirley, would be away visiting her family. There is only one photograph of William with his son, when his son was approximately 5 years of age.¹⁸

¹⁷ Cyndy Lewis, e-mail message to Victoria West, October 2017

¹⁸ Shirley's memory, verbal account, November 2017

