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Family History of Cheyenne McDonald

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**The Family History of
Cheyenne J. McDonald**

21 November 2017

Cheyenne Jean-Marie McDonald 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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A1b2b2. Unk.

GENERATION ONE

Cheyenne Jean-Marie McDonald (1996-) was born at Freeman Hospital in Joplin, Missouri, in 1996 to **Chad Devlin McDonald (1972-)** and **Deanna Gay Seratt McDonald (1955-)**. Cheyenne was born on Valentine's Day, exactly one day before the doctor told her mother that she would have to be induced into labor. Cheyenne was born several weeks after her original due date. The only complication she was born with was an abnormal amount of mucus that had to be cleaned out of her sinuses. Otherwise, she was a very healthy baby.¹

Cheyenne grew up in the country, near Carl Junction, Missouri, a small town on the Missouri-Kansas state line. Carl Junction, Missouri, was founded due to its location near a railroad junction. The railroad junction was by Charles Carl, hence how the town gained the name "Carl Junction." During the 2010 census, the population was recorded to be 7,445 residents. The town is best known for its annual Bluegrass Festival at Center Creek Park.²

Deanna and Chad owned 1.5 acres of land outside of Carl Junction. When Cheyenne was a baby, her parents owned a mobile home, which they placed on the land they owned. It was a simple, white trailer. Cheyenne and her parents lived in it until 2001, when they decided to build their own home on the same property. Her parents decided to buy a modular home, which is a type of house that is first pre-built and then transported to its destination. Cheyenne remained in this house for the rest of her childhood, and still lives in it to this day with her mother.

While growing up, the other two adults that influenced Cheyenne the most were her maternal grandparents, **Johnnie Dale Seratt (1935-)** and **Joyce Marie Brasuell Seratt (1936-**

¹ Personal knowledge of the author, Cheyenne J. McDonald.

² Wikipedia. "Carl Junction, Missouri." Accessed November 4, 2017.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carl_Junction,_Missouri

). Johnnie “John” and Joyce were very involved in raising Cheyenne. Her parents both worked, so her grandparents acted as her babysitter. Every day, they would drive to her house from Mt. Vernon, Missouri, which is roughly a 45 minute drive, or her mother would drive her to their house before she went to work. Many of her fondest memories growing up involve her grandparents. They took her everywhere and constantly made it a point to teach her something new each day. Cheyenne has memories of countless trips to museums, the library, and parks. Due to their love of the wild west, Cheyenne and John referred to each other as “partner”. Since John and Joyce were always there to take care of Cheyenne, she never had to go to a babysitter or a daycare the entire time she was growing up.

During the fall of 1999, Deanna enrolled Cheyenne into preschool at Saint Mary’s Catholic School, a private school located in Joplin, Missouri. Unlike most children, Cheyenne was very excited to start going to school. She was always fascinated by it and would pretend to be a teacher when she played. While she did love going to school at Saint Mary’s, she never felt like she truly fit in because she was not catholic. There were many times when all of the children would get to partake in something during mass services that were held every Friday at school, but she had to remain in her seat. Many of the other children would ask her why she didn’t get to participate and would assume it was because she was in trouble. Deanna had decided to enroll Cheyenne into catholic school because it was the only christian school they could afford. Deanna felt like it was important for her to be in christian surroundings since she was not exposed to it at home due to spiritual conflicts between her and Chad. Cheyenne stayed at Saint Mary’s until she finished kindergarten, and then eventually changed schools.

The summer before she entered first grade, Deanna decided it would be best for her to attend public school at Carl Junction R-1 School District since they could no longer afford a private school. Cheyenne was excited to start school at Carl Junction since it was only 7 minutes away from her house. However, her first year at Carl Junction ended up being a rough year for her. During the school year, Cheyenne ended up contracting poststreptococcal juvenile arthritis (PSJA). PSJA is an extremely painful and immediate arthritis caused by strep bacteria. The disease ended up causing her to not be able to walk for a while, which led to her father carrying her to and from doctor's appointments. For the remainder of first grade, she was in and out of school trying to recover. Eventually, she made a full recovery and was fully mobile again. However, she still deals with some consequences of the disease, such as weakness in her joints whenever she is ill.

In 2007, Chad decided that he wanted to divorce Deanna. This marks the beginning of the hardest years of Cheyenne's life. Growing up, Chad was never really in the picture. He was around, but was not actively involved in Cheyenne's life. There were always many family problems, but Deanna felt like it was important to try and stay with Chad so Cheyenne would grow up in a house with both of her parents. In the end, things did not work out. The divorce ended up lasting for 3 years, as Deanna and Chad fought for custody of Cheyenne. She wanted to live with her mom, as she was scared of her father, but Chad wanted to have full custody of her. Eventually, the divorce was finalized. Chad ended up having Cheyenne every other weekend.

During the next few years, Cheyenne pleaded to stay only with her mom. She felt like she did not even know her father anymore. Finally, on the Wednesday before Halloween of her 8th grade year, Chad wrote a letter to Cheyenne giving up his rights to have her during the weekend.

This was the last time that she spoke to her father for 3 years. She tried to make contact with him when she was a junior in high school, but it ended up failing. She learned several years later that he had moved to Las Vegas, Nevada. Cheyenne no longer speaks to her father, and a majority of his family decided to not have contact with her as well. This makes it very hard for her to know the family history on her father's side of the family.

During all the chaos of her parents divorce, Cheyenne decided to dedicate her life to Christ and become a Christian. She started attending church at Fir Road Christian Church, located about a mile from her house. Through her faith, she found peace and comfort and was able to rise out of her circumstances a new and better human. To this day, her belief in Jesus Christ is what directs many of the decisions and paths she chooses to take. She considers this the most important decision she made in her entire life.

In May of 2014, Cheyenne graduated from Carl Junction High School. Academics were very important to her during her entire childhood. She graduated in the top 10 percent of her class, along with many other honors. High school, for the most part, was filled with very fond memories. In high school she met her best friend, **Caleb Daniel Toney (1996-)**. Caleb moved to Carl Junction their freshman year of high school. His dad was hired as the preacher at the church Cheyenne and her mother attended. To this day he is still her best friend. By the end of her senior year, she was more than ready to move on the next step of her life. She applied for 3 different colleges and decided on Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kansas.

During the Fall of 2014, Cheyenne moved into the dorms at Pittsburg State University to start her journey in higher education. She decided to major in psychology with a minor in spanish. During her time in college, she immersed herself into the world of psychology and

spanish. She had the opportunity to live in Mexico for 3 months during the summer of 2016.

While she was there, she interned with a childhood psychologist who worked with orphaned and abandoned children. During the summer of 2017, Cheyenne decided to move back home with her mom and is currently living there.

In December of 2018, she will be graduating from college with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology. She was accepted into graduate school in November of 2018. She will be starting the following spring, studying to obtain her Ed.S. in school psychology. When she is finished, she hopes to work with hispanic youth in the United States.

Throughout life, Cheyenne has constantly sought to improve herself. Even though she did go through a traumatic time in her childhood during her parents divorce, she did not let it negatively affect her. Instead, she used it as an opportunity to become a better person. She now knows how to help others who are in crisis from her own experiences, and the training she has received while studying psychology. In fact, the main reason she chose psychology as her field of study was so she could help others who have been through similar situations and struggle with some of the same after-effects. She believes that she is a much happier person now, and a much more whole person. This closely relates to Fisher's theme of **mentality** in the book *Made in America*. Instead of becoming a disruption to society by living a negative lifestyle, she has chose to cultivate her emotions into useful ones with the intention of helping society.³

³ Claude S. Fischer, *Made In America; A Social History of American Culture and Character* (Chicago & London: The University of Chicago Press, 2010), 9.

GENERATION TWO

A1a. Deanna Gay Seratt McDonald (1955-)

A1b. Chad Devlin McDonald (1972-)

Deanna Gay Seratt McDonald (1955-) was born on May 29th at Smoky Hill Air Force Base in Salina, Kansas, to **Joyce Marie Brasuell Seratt (1936-)** and **Johnnie Dale Seratt (1935-)**. During labor, Joyce had a very difficult time and Deanna ended up being born breached. The breached labor caused her to briefly have a cone shaped head and a scar on her stomach from the doctors using forceps.⁴ Those were the only complications that happened during her birth.

While growing up, Deanna never lived in more than one place for very long because of her father being in the Air Force. After she was born, her family immediately moved to Lincoln, Nebraska. One of her earliest memories was during her time in Nebraska. While playing out in the snow, she lost her mittens and ended up having frost bitten fingers. Joyce fixed her fingers by making her hold her hands in water.⁵ They weren't able to go to the hospital because at the time, her family did not have much money.

After her time in Nebraska, Deanna moved to Madrid, Spain, with her parents. She lived in Spain from the time she was 5 years old until she was close to 9 years old. While living in Spain, her mother gave birth to her sister **Belinda Joy Seratt Ruckman (1961-1980)**. Because of the economic state of Spain at the time, her family was able to afford a live-in maid named Amalia. Amalia served as a second mother to Deanna and Belinda. At the time, she was the primary caregiver of the girls. Their parents always loved and cared for them, but were both very

⁴ Deanna McDonald, interview with Cheyenne McDonald, 25 October 2017.

⁵ Ibid.

young themselves and still trying to figure out how to be adults. Deanna attended a catholic school that was ran by spanish nuns who spoke very little english. This forced Deanna to learn spanish. However, later in life due to lack of use, she forgot most of the language. In fact, when they moved back to the United States her little sister only spoke spanish. Deanna recalls Belinda referring to their grandpa as “gringo” the first time he met her after they returned from Spain.⁶

After coming back from Spain, they briefly lived in Sumter, South Carolina, at Shaw Air Force Base. The main memories Deanna remembers about South Carolina was her caregiver, Lottie Bell and walking to bible school barefoot every day during the summer. While going to bible school she decided to dedicate her life to Christ. During this time, Deanna met her lifelong best friend **Barry Wayne Parker (1954-)**. Later on, he was the one and only person who ever took her to prom.⁷

After living in other various places in the United States, her family moved to Okinawa, Japan, during her freshman year of high school. Japan was Deanna’s favorite place she ever lived. Her fondest memory of the country was the people. She fell in love with the culture and felt like she was at home. She spent countless days going to the open markets and swimming/surfing in the China Sea. She also had the opportunity to see many famous rock bands such as Led Zeppelin, Santana, Neil Young and Crazy Horse, and Deep Purple.⁸ Although she never wanted to leave, eventually her time in Japan came to an end during her last semester of high school, when she moved back to the United States.

When Deanna returned, her family moved back to Sumter, South Carolina. She finished her last semester of high school at Hillcrest High School, an originally all African American

⁶ Deanna McDonald, Interview with Cheyenne McDonald, 25 October 2017

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

school. Deanna was one of the first white children to ever attend the school. She played a direct role as a student during the desegregation of public schools in the 1970s. While she was at the school, she witnessed many protests, which often turned violent. The school only allowed spoons with handles bent back so they could not be used as brass knuckles or as a stabbing tool.⁹ On her graduation day, John ended up receiving orders to go to Cambodia during the Vietnam War, and the whole family was rushed away. John went to Cambodia, and Deanna, along with her mother and sister, were sent to Mt. Vernon Missouri, which is still where her parents live.

After high school, Deanna attended Droughon Business College in Springfield, Missouri, where she studied fashion merchandising. After graduation, she moved to Pittsburg, Kansas, and married a pro rodeo cowboy named **Billy Jo Mattson (1954-)**. She remained married to him until 1987, but eventually filed for divorce due to his substance abuse.¹⁰

Once she was divorced, she moved to Joplin, Missouri, and worked as the strength training director for the Joplin Family YMCA. She also held a second job as an occupational therapist assistant for the Joplin R-8 School District. During this time, she competed in powerlifting and ended up setting a national record for squatting 306 lbs in the 109 lbs category. While living in Joplin, she met **Chad Devlin McDonald (1972-)**. They started dating in August of 1994.¹¹ On August 19, 1995, Deanna and Chad married. Shortly after their marriage, they moved to Carl Junction, Missouri, on the same property Deanna currently resides on.

On February 14, 1996, Deanna gave birth to their first and only child, Cheyenne. After the birth of Cheyenne, Deanna started working full time for only the Joplin School District in order to be able to spend more time with her daughter. Some of her favorite memories with

⁹ Deanna McDonald, Interview with Cheyenne McDonald, 25 October 2017.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

Cheyenne when she was a child was rocking her daughter to sleep every night while reading to her.¹² Deanna has always had a love for books and reading to her daughter, and teaching her to read was always a priority. Because of this, Cheyenne started reading at a college level by the time she was in 8th grade. Deanna made it a point to be highly involved on her daughter's life, as she was 40 years old when she finally had a child.

In Figure 4.10 “Americans Who Live Alone, by Age and Gender,” Fischer and Hout show the percentage of men living alone from ages 18 to 29, 30 to 44, 45 to 64, and 65 and older from the years 1900 to 2000, while also contrasting it with the percentage of women living alone from ages 18 to 29, 30 to 44, 45 to 64, and 65 and older from the years 1900 to 2000. Overall, men increase to a little over 15 percent by the age of 65, while women increasing to almost 35 percent by the age of 65. This could be due to women living longer, but could also be contributed to by the increasing amount of women who choose to be independent.¹³

In 2009, Deanna and Chad divorced and parted ways for good. During this time, she started attending church with her daughter and decided to rededicate her life to Christ and has lived a Christian lifestyle ever since. The divorce brought Deanna and Cheyenne even closer and created an inseparable mother and daughter bond. She decided after the divorce she had no desire to date again and was happy to live a single lifestyle, which remains true. The divorce also made Deanna much more financially stable, allowing her to better her life as well as Cheyenne's. Deanna could have chosen to date or marry again, but she enjoys the benefits of being single and independent. When once asked if she ever thinks about marrying someone again, she responded with a firm no because she would no longer be able to do all of the things she wants to. While

¹² Deanna McDonald, Interview with Cheyenne McDonald, 25 October 2017.

¹³ Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 84.

she respects marriage as a whole, she does not want a part of it.¹⁴ She is perfectly happy spending a life with family and friends with no romantic aspects.

In February of 2015, Deanna started working for Carl Junction R-1 School District as a paraprofessional in a self-contained special needs classroom in the high school. She continues to work there and plans on retiring from Carl Junction when she is finally ready to. Deanna remains a very active part of her daughter's life, while also helping take care of her aging parents.

Chad Devlin McDonald (1972-) was born on February 19 in Joplin, Missouri, at Freeman Hospital to **Jean La Salle Williams Campbell (1949-)** and **Harlan McDonald (1946-)**. From what is remembered, his life was not easy as a child. His mother divorced his father before he was a year old. His mother fought to have him, but then gave him to her mother, **Pauline L. England Williams (1931- 2000)** to raise. Jean took him back numerous times, but always ended up giving him back. His father tried to get custody of him until his high school years, but finally gave up when Chad decided he wanted nothing to do with his real father. Eventually, Jean married **James Steven Campbell (unk.)**, bringing 2 step siblings into Chad's life.

Chad attended school in Joplin, until his family moved to Carl Junction, Missouri. He graduated from Carl Junction High School and immediately joined the army after graduation. He was in the army for three years until he was discharged for inappropriate behavior.¹⁵ Afterwards, he moved back to Joplin, Missouri, and began to work in a factory in Pittsburg, Kansas. While living in Joplin he met **Deanna Gay Seratt McDonald (1955-)** through mutual friends. They got married, moved to Carl Junction, and had their daughter Cheyenne. Shortly after moving, he

¹⁴ Deanna McDonald, Interview with Cheyenne McDonald, 25 October 2017.

¹⁵ Personal knowledge of the author, Cheyenne J. McDonald.

started working for the Carpenters' Union in Joplin. He continued to work his way up in the Union throughout their marriage.

In 2009, Chad decided to divorce Deanna after having affairs with several different women. He no longer speaks to Deanna or Cheyenne. In 2010, he married **Tiffany Sampson McDonald (1980-)** and moved to Seneca, Missouri. As of now, he resides in Las Vegas, Nevada, as an instructor at the International Carpenters' Union.

GENERATION THREE

Ala1. Joyce Marie Brasuell Seratt (1936-)

Ala2. Johnnie Dale Seratt (1935-)

Alb1. Jean La Salle Williams Campbell (1949-)

Alb2. Harlan McDonald (1946-)

Joyce Marie Brasuell Seratt (1936-) was born on May 11 in Stilwell, Oklahoma, to **Pearl Cochran Brasuell (1913-1983)** and **Perry Glen Brasuell (1916-1995)**. She was born in her parents house instead of a hospital. Joyce recalls her mother telling her that a doctor rode a horse out into the mountains where her family lived to deliver her.¹⁶ Joyce is the oldest of four children, **Jerry Glen Brasuell (1939-1995)**, **Noel Loyd Brasuell (1940-)**, **Lola June Brasuell Barnett (1942-)**. She lived in Oklahoma until she was five years old, when her family decided to move to Hulett, Wyoming. They lived in the country where her father broke wild horses and sold them for a living. After living in Wyoming for a short period of time, they moved to Davidson, Arkansas, where Joyce started attending school.¹⁷

When going to primary school in Arkansas, Joyce would ride the bus to school every day to a two-room schoolhouse where she would studied writing, reading, and arithmetic. One of her memories of the school house included getting hit in the head with a pencil by the teacher for eating her lunch before she was supposed to. She thought that since she was hungry she could go ahead and eat. She was very upset when she got in trouble and remembers being sad for being punished by the teacher.¹⁸

¹⁶ Joyce Seratt, Interview with Cheyenne McDonald, 30 September 2017.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

During first grade her family moved back to Stilwell, Oklahoma, where she started attending Rock Spring School, a small two-room schoolhouse in the country. She went to Rock Spring School until she was ten years old. One day when she was playing outside during recess at school, she tried to run under a swing while pushing her friend and ended up breaking her nose. Instead of going to the doctor, her mom took care of her nose. Her walk to school also included walking through a field where a big bull lived. He was mean, so when she and her siblings saw him in the field, they would go out of their way to walk around him to avoid making him angry.¹⁹

Being born in 1936, Joyce spent almost all of her childhood growing up during The Great Depression and the aftermath that was caused by it. Her parents were very poor for her entire childhood. Joyce recalls countless stories of how poor they were. Many days were spent not knowing if they would get enough to eat. Her two brothers would go into fields and steal berries from other farmers because they were so hungry. During the worst times, all they would have to eat would be one slice of bread with a little ketchup on it for flavor. Her mom would also make gravy out of water because they could not even afford milk. Joyce's family moved around so much because her father was constantly looking for work. Except for their small stent in Wyoming, they never made it out of the dust bowl region, as her father's primary work was that of a cattleman. One picture Joyce has of her with her parents shows one of the houses they lived in. In the picture, it shows a small shack made of rotten wood with a dirt floor. It was only two rooms.²⁰ She remembers having to sleep under the table on a pallet. On top of this, her father would also leave his family for awhile on and off. This left Joyce to raise her brothers and sisters. She was forced to take on the role of a mother since Pearl had to constantly work to provide for

¹⁹ Joyce Seratt, Interview with Cheyenne McDonald, 30 September 2017.

²⁰ Personal knowledge of the author, Cheyenne McDonald.

her family. Joyce's story closely relates to Fisher's theme of **security** in his book *Made in America*²¹, as she had a very unstable life growing up.

When Joyce was ten, her family moved to Satanta, Kansas, where things finally started getting better for her family. She stayed in Satanta until she was 18 years old. From 7th grade on she was a cheerleader. Her sophomore and junior year she ended up being elected as the head cheerleader. She was also the majorette for the school marching band.²² While attending Satanta High School, Joyce met **Johnnie Dale Seratt (1935-)**. They dated each other for two years before getting married. While Joyce was in high school, her parents did not like John at all. During one date, Glen came and pulled Joyce out of the car and told her "she would not date that young man".²³ Joyce did not listen to her parents, and between her junior and senior year of high school, she married John on July 24, 1954 in Biloxi Mississippi.²⁴ John was in training for the Air Force, and since Joyce was 18 years old, she decided to leave Satanta to marry him. She stayed in Mississippi and finished her last year of high school there.

After John finished his schooling, they moved to Salina, Kansas, where Joyce gave birth to her first child, Deanna. For the next 21 years, she played the role of a military wife and followed John all over the United States and the world. Joyce recalls it being very hard figuring out how to be a young mother of two daughters, while also being a wife and taking care of the home when John was away. It is hard for her to pick a favorite place she lived, but she loved living in South Carolina. There were beautiful flowers everywhere and she loves flowers.²⁵

²¹ Claude S. Fischer, *Made In America; A Social History of American Culture and Character* (Chicago & London: The University of Chicago Press, 2010), 8.

²² Joyce Seratt, Interview with Cheyenne McDonald, 30 September 2017.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

During John's final year of enlistment, Joyce moved to Mt. Vernon, Missouri, to live near her sister, Lola. They bought a farm on the outskirts of town. They attempted to partake in farm life, but it did not last very long. Joyce hated taking care of the cows, and when John returned, he decided he hated it too.²⁶ They sold the farm and moved into a house in town, where Joyce still lives with John. In 1980, Belinda passed away from Toxic Shock Syndrome. Her death took a large toll on the family, but they made it, bringing her and John even closer together. Joyce enjoys living a simple life in the small town, and would not change any detail of her life. She feels as though she has lived a good, long life.

Johnnie Dale Seratt (1935-) was born on August 14 in Nicut, Oklahoma, to **Florence Thinnie Tucker Seratt (1911-1989)** and **Floyd Lee Seratt (1909-1978)**. Nicut, Oklahoma, is a very small unincorporated community in Sequoyah county, Oklahoma. During the 2010 census, the population of the town was only 360 people. Originally, it was named Vrona, but was then changed by the post office on December 16, 1925. The name Nicut came from the term "nigh cut", a term for shortcut, since it was commonly passed through on the way to Muldrow, Oklahoma.²⁷ He was born on Seabolt Farm, a large farm his parents were renting. He is the second youngest of four siblings, **Norman Carnell Seratt (1928-1991)**, **Wallace Wayne Seratt (1931-1991)**, and **Janice Lee Seratt Sams (1949-2008)**. When he was eight years old, he moved to Ceres, California. While in California, he started 3rd grade at Ceres Grammar School, a large school near his home.²⁸ Growing up in California, he spent many of his days swimming in an

²⁶ Joyce Seratt, Interview with Cheyenne McDonald, 30 September 2017.

²⁷ Wikipedia. "Nicut, Oklahoma." Accessed October 20, 2017. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicut,_Oklahoma

²⁸ John Seratt, Interview with Cheyenne McDonald, 30 September 2017.

irrigation canal by his house with his dog, Rusty. His best friend was named Kelly, and they use to race Kelly's car up and down the streets while John hung on for dear life in the back seat.²⁹

Unlike Joyce, John's family was financially stable while he was growing up. Both of his parents had jobs and made a decent amount of money. Because of this, he was able to grow up with plenty of toys. One of his favorite toys he ever had was a brand new bicycle his parents got him for Christmas.³⁰ However, it did not last long because his brothers got jealous and ended up tearing it up. Until his little sister was born, he was the youngest of the family and constantly got picked on by his two older brothers.

During the summer after his sophomore year of high school, his family decided to move back to Nicut, Oklahoma. John's parents wanted him to attend school 20 miles away, but John refused.³¹ He could not stand his math teacher in California, so he decided he was done with school and dropped out. When he was 16 years old, his family moved to Satanta, Kansas, where John met Joyce. At the time, Joyce had went on a date with John's best friend, Gene. John decided he was better for her then Gene, so he convinced her to start dating him instead.³²

On February 2, 1954, John enlisted into the Air Force.³³ He went to basic training in Amarillo, Texas, and then moved to Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi, to study to become an airborne radar technician. During this time, he also married Joyce. After he graduated from school, he was moved to Smoky Hill Air Force Base in Salina, Kansas. There, he worked on the radars of the airplanes in the base. He was then moved to Lincoln Air Force Base in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he continued to work on airplane radars.

²⁹ John Seratt, Interview with Cheyenne McDonald, 30 September 2017.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

In 1959, John and his family moved to Madrid, Spain, where he worked on the radars of fighter planes. John enjoyed living in Spain because it was cheap, so he and his family were able to enjoy different luxuries that they could not afford back in the United States, such as a live-in maid.³⁴ While in Spain he also made trips to Libya to work on the planes there as well. The planes he worked on in Libya were reconnaissance planes that were used make maps of different foreign territories.

After Spain, he was moved to Sumter, South Carolina, where he went to school to become a field training instructor. As an instructor his job was to teach other enlistees how to work on radars. Once he was finished with school, he was sent to Mountain Home, Idaho, to continue to teach others about radars. There he was put in charge of all of the other electronic instructors. During his time in Idaho, the Vietnam War started.

Soon after the war started, he and his family were moved to Okinawa, Japan, at Kadena Air Force Base. He was sent to Japan because the small island of Okinawa was used as a base to send planes to bomb Southeast Asia and then repair them once they returned.³⁵ On Okinawa, he continued to teach others how to repair radars. From Japan, he was moved back to South Carolina, but hardly spent any time there before being sent into action.

In 1973, John was sent to Thailand with the AC130 gunships, which were known as The Night Riders, an elite squadron of planes that had the capability to fly at night and map out enemy territory, while also being armed with guns.³⁶ Being in Thailand was very dangerous. He

³⁴ John Seratt, Interview with Cheyenne McDonald, 30 September 2017.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Ibid.

remembers hearing bombs constantly going off, while also having enemy planes try to attack them at the military base.³⁷ Most of his time in Thailand, he acted as a supervisor.

After Thailand, he returned back to the United States and went to Florida to continue schooling for the AC130 gunship.³⁸ Because of the tension caused by the war in the U.S., he was spit on and called a baby killer anywhere he went with his uniform on. During his time in Florida, he put in his retirement papers.

In Figure 5.4 "Employment Rate of Men Age Fifty-Five to Seventy-Four, by Year and Age Group", Fischer and Hout show the labor force participation rate in four different age groups from the years 1940 to 2000. The groups given are ages 55 to 59, 60 to 64, 65 to 69, and 70 to 74. The data shows the strength between the fact that by 1930 almost one million people had long enough lives that they could enjoy retirement. The graph shows that all four age groups started to quit working younger than in the past. According to the text in the book that describes the graph, Men sixty-five to sixty-nine years old changed the most: over half of Americans that age in 1940 had jobs, while barely one-fourth of the same group had jobs in 1990 or 2000."³⁹

John Seratt served in the United States Air Force as a Master Sergeant electronic technician from February, 1954 to October, 1974.⁴⁰ He served during the time of the Vietnam war. After spending 21 years in the air force, he was able to retire and live a comfortable life. He, along with many members of his cohort retired around the same time, as the U.S government was considering sending many troops back over to Cambodia less than 3 months after they had just returned home from war. In his words, he decided to retire from the military because he wanted

³⁷ John Seratt, Interview with Cheyenne McDonald, 30 September 2017.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 106.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

to enjoy retirement and time with his family, and did not want to die young since he had the option not to. He retired and moved back to Mt. Vernon, Missouri, along with several of his friends. Although, John did work for a time in his own business as an electronic repairman for his own enjoyment. He finished his business by the 1980s. His early retirement from the U.S military contributed to the data shown in the chart. He now spends his time reading the entire newspaper every day, working on his computer, and tending to his huge, beautiful, rose bushes.

Jean La Salle Williams Campbell (1949-) was born in Baxter Springs, Kansas, to **Pauline L. England Williams (1931-2000)** and **John Junior Williams (1930-2002)**. She is the second oldest, and only girl out of four siblings. She attended school in Baxter Springs, but at some point moved to Joplin, Missouri, and graduated from Joplin High School.⁴¹ Once she finished school, she started working in various bars in the area. During this time she met **Harlan McDonald (1946-)**. Eventually they got married and had their son Chad. They were married for less than a year before getting divorced. After their divorce, she married James Campbell.

At some point in her life she started working for Freeman Health System in Joplin, where she eventually retired from.⁴² As of now she remains married to James and resides in Carl Junction, Missouri. The year 2007 was the last time she made any contact with her granddaughter Cheyenne.

Harlan McDonald (1946-) was born on November 2 in Baxter Springs, Kansas.⁴³ He was born into a large family with lots of brothers and sisters. He also lived in Joplin, where he met Jean Campbell. After his divorce from Jean, he entered into the Navy, where he met his second

⁴¹ Personal Knowledge of the author, Cheyenne McDonald.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

wife **Mary Ann McDonald (1953-)**.⁴⁴ He adopted Mary Ann's sons from her first marriage, however his only biological child is Chad McDonald. While in the Navy he moved to Mississippi, where he remains today. Once retired from the Navy, he worked at a college university as security staff. Most of his family remains in the Joplin area.

⁴⁴ Personal Knowledge of the author, Cheyenne McDonald.

GENERATION FOUR

A1a1a. Pearl Cochran Brasuell (1913-1983)

A1a1b. Perry Glen Brasuell (1916-1995)

A1a2a. Florence Thinnie Tucker Seratt (1911-1989)

A1a2b. Floyd Lee Seratt (1909-1978)

A1b1a. Pauline L. England Williams (1931-2000)

A1b1b. John Junior Williams (1930-2002)

A1b2a. Unk.

A1b2b. Unk.

Pearl Cochran Brasuell (1913-1983) was born on June 16 by Nicut, Oklahoma, in the hills to **Mary O. Cook Cochran (1888-1973)** and **Anthony Cochran (1864-1944)**. She had five biological siblings, and three step-siblings. They were very poor and her father was very tight with finances. He did have a job and made money, but refused to share it with his wife or children. Her parents owned a sorghum mill, so everything in the house was only sweetened with sorghum. Growing up, she wore clothing made out of flour sacks. Her family never owned a wagon, so they had to walk everywhere she went.⁴⁵

She remained in the Nicut area until she completed 8th grade, and then moved to Ada, Oklahoma, to start high school. While in high school she played basketball, and was known to be very good at it. After her sophomore year of high school, she dropped out of school and moved back to Nicut, where she then worked as a teacher.⁴⁶ At the time, two years of high school education was considered a lot, therefore she was qualified to be a teacher.

When she was 22 years old, she met and married **Perry Glen Brasuell (1916-1995)**. While Glen was dating Pearl, she said she could hear him coming up the mountain on his horse because

⁴⁵ Joyce Seratt, Interview with Cheyenne McDonald, 30 September 2017.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

he would always be “hooping” and “hollering” the whole way to see her.⁴⁷ By the year 1940, they were living in Wyoming. On the 1940 census, it has Pearl estimated as being born in 1914⁴⁸, however, her daughter Joyce is very sure that she was born in 1913.⁴⁹

Pearl was a very hard worker. She always tended a large garden, where she would grow different vegetables that she would can. She also went to orchards where she would pick fruit that was left over from harvest to can. Many times, this was the only way that she was able to get food for her children since they were very poor. When she moved to Satanta, Kansas, she started working as a cook in a restaurant.⁵⁰ Around this time, things also started looking up for her family as they started coming more financially stable. Because of this, she was able to buy her own small restaurant that she owned for almost 25 years. Pearl walked to work every single day and never learned how to drive a car.⁵¹

In the 1970s Pearl and Glen moved to Jane, Missouri, where they purchased a 40 acre farm.⁵² However, they did not live there long because Pearl started having heart problems. They moved back to her hometown of Nicut, Oklahoma.⁵³ Not many years later, on February 23, 1983, she passed away from heart failure and was buried in Seabolt Cemetery in Nicut.⁵⁴

⁴⁷ Joyce Seratt, Interview with Cheyenne McDonald, 30 September 2017.

⁴⁸ "United States Census, 1940," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/VT4P-M8Q> : accessed 19 November 2017), Pearl Braswell in household of Glen Braswell, Hulett, Election District 13 Hulett, Crook, Wyoming, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 6-13, sheet 61B, line 80, family 180, Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940, NARA digital publication T627. Records of the Bureau of the Census, 1790 - 2007, RG 29. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2012, roll 4569.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 20 November 2017), memorial page for Pearl Brasuell (16 Jun 1913–23 Feb 1983), Find A Grave Memorial no. 35405585, citing Seabolt Cemetery, Nicut, Sequoyah County, Oklahoma, USA ; Maintained by Yonda Bailey (contributor 46969267) .

Perry Glen Brasuell (1916-1995), more commonly referred to as Glen, was born in the Cookson Hills between Nicut, Oklahoma, and Tahlequah, Oklahoma, to **Amma Rachel Morton Brasuell (1883-1966)** and **Jess Stevens Brasuell (1881-1955)**. Tahlequah, Oklahoma, is currently established as the capital of the Cherokee Nation. Throughout Glens life he lived in the area on and off near the Cherokee reservation. The word Tahlequah is the Cherokee word for grain or rice. Supposedly, the town was given its name because when the Cherokee first arrived the native grasses that grew in the area reminded them of the area they came from before they were forcibly moved during the Trail of Tears. To this day, many of the signs in the town are written in both english and cherokee.⁵⁵

Glen was the second youngest of four siblings. He only went to school until the 6th grade.⁵⁶ He was not very book smart, but he was intelligent in many other ways. One of the ways his intelligence was displayed was through his love of horses. He was known for riding horses all of the time. Even as a young child, he would ride and break horses. Some people called him a “horse whisperer.”⁵⁷

Growing up he was surrounded by native american people and their culture. In the 1930 census, his family members were some of the only people listed as white in their part of the neighborhood.⁵⁸ In fact, although not enough research has been done yet, it is believed that he

⁵⁵ Wikipedia. “Tahlequah, Oklahoma”. Accessed September 6, 2017.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tahlequah,_Oklahoma

⁵⁶ Joyce Seratt, Interview with Cheyenne McDonald, 30 September 2017.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ "United States Census, 1930," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XCQP-WT2> : accessed 21 November 2017), Glen Braswell in household of Jesse Braswell, Lee Creek, Adair, Oklahoma, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 6, sheet 8A, line 22, family 132, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 1892; FHL microfilm 2,341,626.

himself was also partially native american. What schooling he had was all completed at a native american school, and he fluently spoke Cherokee.⁵⁹

All of the towns surrounding the area he grew up in were heavily influenced by native americans. Another local town near the Cookson Hills area was Muskogee Oklahoma, which printed a newspaper called *The Muskogee Cimeter*,⁶⁰ which gave daily reports of news and information on what was going on around the town. The paper also includes a section on the current tribal policies in the indian territory, which was important information to my grandfather and his family throughout generations since many of them were thought to be native american, or had married into native american culture. They would have to keep up with any changes in policy that were occurring, which was more than likely done by reading the newspaper.

At the time, native americans were trying to still be pushed into white, european culture. It has been thought that his family was possibly marked as white on the census simply because they had lighter skin. This was known to have happened throughout history and certainly would not have been out of the realm of possibility.

While still living near Nicut, he met Pearl and married her. On and off throughout their marriage, he would run off and disappear for weeks at a time, leaving her alone with their children. He was a good man and loved her very much, but at the same time he was a “rambling man” who never liked to stay in one place for very long because he constantly sought to find all of the things life had to offer.⁶¹

⁵⁹ Joyce Seratt, Interview with Cheyenne McDonald 30 September 2017.

⁶⁰ The Muskogee cimeter. (Muskogee, Indian Territory, Okla.), 09 June 1904. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress.

<<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83025060/1904-06-09/ed-1/seq-1/>> : accessed 18 September 2017.

⁶¹ Ibid.

All of his life he raised quarter horses and was thought to have some of the finest ones around. Glen was the type of person who never knew a stranger and was known by many people. The fact that he was a Master Mason of the 32nd Degree allowed him to make many different connections with people.⁶² To this day, due to the secrecy of the masonic society, no one in his family really knows what he did as a mason. Later in life, he became involved in many different businesses. He owned a truck line, a sand lot, a car lot, a heavy machinery company, while at the same time working as a cattleman and breaking horses.⁶³ He constantly wanted to have his hands in everything and was genuinely interested in learning everything that he could. It is possible that he had such desires because he grew up very poor and was not able to have access to such things until later in life. He was known as the person in the family who would spend all of his money, constantly buying things, while Pearl was the more rational one who was always saving money. She would become frustrated when he constantly purchased new businesses and items.⁶⁴ This story is a perfect connection to Fischer's theme of **goods** in his book *Made In America* because it illustrates the idea that over time Americans were able to have better access to the items that were part of the “good life”.⁶⁵

After his wife Pearl passed away, he married a woman named Louise, that he met in the parking lot of the local Walmart of Stilwell, Oklahoma. He remained married to Louise until his

⁶² Joyce Seratt, Interview with Cheyenne McDonald, 30 September 2017.

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ Claude S. Fischer, *Made In America; A Social History of American Culture and Character* (Chicago & London: The University of Chicago Press, 2010), 8.

last days. He passed away on March 14, 1995 from a bad case of infulzema.⁶⁶ He was buried in Seabolt Cemetery next to Pearl.⁶⁷

Florence Thinnie Tucker Seratt (1911-1989) was born around Short, Oklahoma. When Florence was only five to six years old, her parents both passed away. They were killed by an influenza epidemic that traveled across much of the United States, killing thousands of people.⁶⁸ The *Beaver Herald* newspaper in Oklahoma had a specific section for the flu. In the section, they list of the names and households where the flu is present, and the names of those who have passed away from the flu.⁶⁹ The same thing probably happened to her parents, letting people know to stay away from the house while it was contaminated. It is a miracle that Florence made it out alive. Leaving Florence an orphan, she was taken in and raised by her grandmother.⁷⁰ Her grandmother was very mean to her. She forced her to cook and clean, treating her as a maid. It was a real life Cinderella story. Florence never attended school because of it. No one is certain what Florence's' true maiden name is. Tucker was the last name of her grandmother, so she just adopted it.⁷¹

In order to escape her grandmother, she got married to **Floyd Lee Seratt (1909-1978)** while she was very young. They were married on September 21, 1927. On their marriage licence,

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 20 November 2017), memorial page for Perry Glen Brasuell (8 Oct 1915–14 Mar 1995), Find A Grave Memorial no. 35405592, citing Seabolt Cemetery, Nicut, Sequoyah County, Oklahoma, USA ; Maintained by Yonda Bailey (contributor 46969267) .

⁶⁸ John Seratt, Interview with Cheyenne McDonald, 30 September 2017.

⁶⁹ The Beaver herald. (Beaver, O.T. [Okla.]), 19 Dec. 1918. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn93066071/1918-12-19/ed-1/seq-4/>> : accessed 14 November 2017.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Ibid.

Florence lied and stated that she was born in 1909 to make it appear as though she was 18 years old.⁷² In reality, she was only 15 years old.⁷³

After they were married for a while, she and Floyd moved to California with their children. While in California, she worked riveting ships, a real *Rosie the Riveter*.⁷⁴ When they moved back to Oklahoma and Kansas, she stopped working and spent her time taking care of the home while Floyd worked. After Floyd retired they moved to Nicut, Oklahoma.⁷⁵ Not long after they moved there, Floyd passed away. She spend the rest of her days taking care of her two oldest sons, who were both co-dependent alcoholics. Florence passed away in October of 1989 and was buried in Seabolt Cemetery in Nicut.⁷⁶

Floyd Lee Seratt (1909-1978) was born on March 9, 1909 in the Cookson Hills in Oklahoma to **Flora Ann Ewing Seratt (1888-1963)** and **John Franklin Seratt (1885-1954)**. Growing up he was very poor. He never had much, but he never let life get him down. Floyd never attended school, but still managed to make a good life for all of his children, and his wife, Florence.⁷⁷ When he was a young man, he worked making ties for the railroad. While he was working, he broke his leg. At the time, he couldn't go to the doctor, and ended up having a crooked leg for the rest of his life.⁷⁸

⁷² "Oklahoma, County Marriages, 1890-1995", database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVPX-8K6Z> : 4 November 2017), Floyd Seratt and Florence Tucker, 1927.

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ John Seratt, Interview with Cheyenne McDonald, 30 September 2017.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 18 November 2017), memorial page for Florence Tucker Seratt (22 Nov 1911–Oct 1989), Find A Grave Memorial no. 47480055, citing Seabolt Cemetery, Nicut, Sequoyah County, Oklahoma, USA ; Maintained by Frances Allen Titsworth (contributor 46972611) .

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

He worked making airplanes while living in Oklahoma, and then later in California when his family moved. When they moved to Satanta, Kansas, he met Glen Brasuell, who helped him get a job as a city manager.⁷⁹ He worked for the city of Satanta until he retired. He then moved to Nicut, Oklahoma with Florence. One day while working on the house, he crawled under the house to fix something and had a heart attack. He ended up passing away under the house and was found by his wife.⁸⁰ It was January of 1978 when he died. He was buried in Seabolt Cemetery in Nicut.⁸¹

Pauline L. England Williams (1931-2000) was born on April 20.⁸² She was married to **John Junior Williams (1930-2002)**. As a married couple they lived most of their life together in Baxter Springs, Kansas. In total, they had four children. Cheyenne had the opportunity to meet her great grandma Pauline a few times, but never had the chance to get to know her. Cheyenne recalls going to a small, yet cozy, house in Baxter Springs. She also remembers her grandmother always giving gifts to her when she would go over. Sometimes they would be wacky gifts for a small child, such a full size clock, but Cheyenne loved it nonetheless.

She also remembers Pauline being very sick all of the time. Because of it, she rarely left the house. When Cheyenne was four years old, Pauline eventually passed away from the illnesses she suffered from. Cheyenne remembers her family having a funeral for her, but she did not go

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ John Seratt, Interview with Cheyenne McDonald, 30 September 2017.

⁸¹ Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 21 November 2017), memorial page for Floyd Lee Seratt (9 Mar 1909–Jan 1978), Find A Grave Memorial no. 47480062, citing Seabolt Cemetery, Nicut, Sequoyah County, Oklahoma, USA ; Maintained by Frances Allen Titsworth (contributor 46972611) .

⁸² Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 19 November 2017), memorial page for Pauline L. England Williams (20 Apr 1931–20 Aug 2000), Find A Grave Memorial no. 77180673, citing Ozark Memorial Park Cemetery, Joplin, Jasper County, Missouri, USA ; Maintained by D Snyder (contributor 47280500) .

since she was so young. She died on August 20, 2000 at one of the hospitals in Joplin, Missouri, and was buried in Ozark Memorial Park Cemetery in Joplin.⁸³

John Junior Williams (1930-2002) was born on March 18 to **Mildred O Wild Dickens England (1895-1985)** and **John Harvey Williams (1895-1941)** in Webb City, Missouri.⁸⁴ He was the youngest of 8 children. Most of his life was spent in the Webb City and Baxter Springs, Kansas area. Cheyenne recalls hearing her father speak about working for the Fire Department for most of his life and eventually retired from it. He would come and visit Cheyenne at her house and always loved to play with her. He was known as being quite the jokester. He would always tell jokes and do anything to make someone laugh. Although she does not remember much about John, she does remember loving him very much. After fighting sickness, he passed away on July 23, 2002 in Joplin, Missouri, at Freeman Hospital. He is buried in Ozark Memorial Park Cemetery beside his wife Pauline.⁸⁵

⁸³ Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 19 November 2017), memorial page for Pauline L. England Williams (20 Apr 1931–20 Aug 2000), Find A Grave Memorial no. 77180673, citing Ozark Memorial Park Cemetery, Joplin, Jasper County, Missouri, USA ; Maintained by D Snyder (contributor 47280500) .

⁸⁴ "United States Census, 1930," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XHFV-DCT> : accessed 20 November 2017), John Williams Jr. in household of John H Williams, Webb City, Jasper, Missouri, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 29, sheet 1A, line 49, family 17, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 1205; FHL microfilm 2,340,940.

⁸⁵ Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 20 November 2017), memorial page for John J. Williams (18 Mar 1930–23 Jul 2002), Find A Grave Memorial no. 77181086, citing Ozark Memorial Park Cemetery, Joplin, Jasper County, Missouri, USA ; Maintained by D Snyder (contributor 47280500) .

GENERATION FIVE

A1a1a1. Mary O. Cook Cochran (1888-1973)

A1a1a2. Anthony Cochran (1864-1944)

A1a1b1. Amma Rachel Morton Brasuell (1883-1966)

A1a1b2. Jess Stevens Brasuell (1881-1955)

A1a2a1. Unk.

A1a2a2. Unk.

A1a2b1. Flora Ann Ewing Seratt (1888-1963)

A1a2b2. John Franklin Seratt (1885-1954)

A1b1a1. Unk.

A1b1a2. Unk.

A1b1b1. Mildred O Wild Dickens Williams (1895-1985)

A1b1b2. John Harvey Williams (1895-1941)

A1b2a1. Unk.

A1b2a2. Unk.

A1b2b1. Unk.

A1b2b2. Unk.

Mary O. Cook Cochran (1888-1973) was from the Stilwell, Oklahoma, area. As a child her parents died and she was taken in as a daughter by **Anthony Cochran (1864-)** and his first wife.⁸⁶ After his wife died, Anthony decided to marry Mary, making her his wife instead of adopted daughter.⁸⁷ Anthony would have been roughly 24 years her senior. Because of this, Mary became the mother figure to her former step siblings. She stayed with Anthony and ended up having six children with him. Eventually she left him, and moved to be near one of her

⁸⁶ "United States, GenealogyBank Obituaries, 1980-2014," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:OK4V-2RTV> : 14 September 2016), Mary Cook Cochran in entry for Leonard T Cochran, Washington, United States, 12 Feb 2006; from "Recent Newspaper Obituaries (1977 - Today)," database, GenealogyBank.com (<http://www.genealogybank.com> : 2014); citing Olympian, The, born-digital text.

⁸⁷ Joyce Seratt, Interview with Cheyenne McDonald, 30 September 2017.

daughters.⁸⁸ The *Vinita Daily Chieftain* reported news in the Vinita, Oklahoma, area, which is relatively close to Stilwell, Oklahoma. This gives an insight into what was going on in the area during the time Mary was with Anthony. The paper reports “the newest and swellest silks” for sale to be made into dresses.⁸⁹ It is a possibility that Mary would read the paper and imagine buying one of the silk dresses, knowing that she would not be able to afford it due to her financial circumstances since Anthony refused to share money with his family. It also speaks of the John D. Rockefeller Railroad System.⁹⁰ The railroad was a main source of transportation at the time, but likely Mary could not afford to ride on it. After Anthony died, she was married a second time to a preacher. While married to the preacher they owned a small store at the side of their house. The majority of their customers were native americans.⁹¹ Her second husband also passed away and she married a third time. She made many things by hand, including butter and cream.⁹² She was a very religious woman and would spend much of her time praying.⁹³ She passed away on November 15, 1973 and is buried in Seabolt Cemetery in Nicut, Oklahoma, next to Anthony.⁹⁴

Anthony Cochran (1864-1944) first met Mary when she came to him as a child. After his wife passed away, he married her. Rumours quickly spread throughout town that he married his own daughter, even though she was not related by blood.⁹⁵ He was known to be a strange and

⁸⁸ Joyce Seratt, Interview with Cheyenne McDonald, 30 September 2017.

⁸⁹ The Vinita daily chieftain. (Vinita, Indian Territory [Okla.]), 07 Dec. 1907. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress.
<<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83025020/1907-12-07/ed-1/seq-1/>> : accessed 15 November 2017.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 20 November 2017), memorial page for Mary Cochran (16 Jun 1888–15 Nov 1973), Find A Grave Memorial no. 35405786, citing Seabolt Cemetery, Nicut, Sequoyah County, Oklahoma, USA ; Maintained by Yonda Bailey (contributor 46969267) .

⁹⁵ Ibid.

reclusive man. To ensure no one knew where his money was, he would hide it by burying it in the ground.⁹⁶ Once, someone found out about the money and drove to his house and shot him. Anthony survived the wound by tending it himself. He was scared of doctors and refused to go see one.⁹⁷ Joyce Seratt remembers always being scared of him the few times she went to visit him as a child. He died on January 19, 1944 and was buried in Seabolt Cemetery.⁹⁸

Amma Rachel Morton Brasuell (1883-1966) was born in Arkansas⁹⁹. She was married to **Jess Stevens Brasuell (1881-1955)** on March 6, 1900 in Crawford County, Arkansas. Amma was 17 and Jess was 19.¹⁰⁰ As a child, she was a tomboy, always doing things that girls at the time were not supposed to do.¹⁰¹ She walked everywhere she went, and was known for her biscuits and gravy.¹⁰² Joyce Seratt recalls her being a very kind woman. For a small portion of time, Amma and Jess lived with Joyce and her parents, and she always loved it when she cooked.

¹⁰³ She died in 1966 and was buried in Stilwell Cemetery in Stilwell, Oklahoma.¹⁰⁴

⁹⁶ Joyce Seratt, Interview with Cheyenne McDonald, 30 September 2017.

⁹⁷ Ibid.

⁹⁸ Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 20 November 2017), memorial page for Anthony Cochran (30 Apr 1864–19 Jan 1944), Find A Grave Memorial no. 35405782, citing Seabolt Cemetery, Nicut, Sequoyah County, Oklahoma, USA ; Maintained by Yonda Bailey (contributor 46969267) .

⁹⁹ "United States Census, 1920," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/MJM8-8QL> : accessed 21 November 2017), Ama R Braswell in household of Jess S Braswell, Lee Creek, Adair, Oklahoma, United States; citing ED 6, sheet 10B, line 81, family 189, NARA microfilm publication T625 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1992), roll 1451; FHL microfilm 1,821,451.

¹⁰⁰ "Arkansas, County Marriages, 1837-1957," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/N97Q-JJ9> : 25 September 2017), J S Brasuell and Ammie Morton, 06 Mar 1900; citing , Crawford, Arkansas, United States, county offices, Arkansas; FHL microfilm 1,028,050.

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ Ibid.

¹⁰⁴ Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 20 November 2017), memorial page for Ama Brasuell (1883–1966), Find A Grave Memorial no. 108363004, citing Stilwell Cemetery, Stilwell, Adair County, Oklahoma, USA ; Maintained by MillieBelle (contributor 46628380) .

Jess Stevens Brasuell (1881-1955) was born in Missouri¹⁰⁵, but then later moved to Arkansas, and then eventually Oklahoma. While living in Oklahoma in 1917, he was drafted into the United States military during World War I.¹⁰⁶ In 1942, he was once again drafted into the military, but this time it was for World War II.¹⁰⁷ Interestingly enough, when his son **Shird Brasuell (1910-Deceased)** was getting married, he spelled his father's name "Jas" instead of "Jess", which gives an idea about the level of education many people who grew up in the Cookson Hills area received at the time, especially if they were poor.¹⁰⁸

Jess chewed tobacco for most his life and acquired the capability to spit a very long ways.¹⁰⁹ He spend his last days very simply. In Figure 6.6 "Households with Key Domestic Goods, by Year," Fischer and Hout show the percentage of households from the years 1900 to 2000 who had inside toilets, a telephone, an automobile, their own home, and a computer. Inside toilets telephones, and automobiles showed the largest increase, all increasing from 0 to almost 100 percent. Home ownership increased from approximately 45 percent to approximately 65 percent.

¹⁰⁵ "United States Census, 1910," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/ML7X-DY5> : accessed 21 November 2017), Jess S Brasuell, Long, Sequoyah, Oklahoma, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 199, sheet 2B, family 17, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 1272; FHL microfilm 1,375,285.

¹⁰⁶ "United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/KZDT-WL9> : 12 December 2014), Jessie Stevens Braswell, 1917-1918; citing Sequoyah County, Oklahoma, United States, NARA microfilm publication M1509 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm 1,852,127.

¹⁰⁷ "United States World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/XPTL-2JX> : 17 October 2017), Jess Stevens Brasuell, 1942; citing NARA microfilm publication M1936, M1937, M1939, M1951, M1962, M1964, M1986, M2090, and M2097 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

¹⁰⁸ "Oklahoma, County Marriages, 1890-1995", database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/XVKK-V43> : 4 November 2017), Jas Brasuell in entry for Shird Brasuell and Ruth Jones, 1929.

¹⁰⁹ Joyce Seratt, Interview with Cheyenne McDonald, 30 September 2017.

From the creation of the household computer around 1980, ownership increased from approximately 10 percent to approximately 55 percent.¹¹⁰

Jess lived in a time when many of these things were not available to him until later in life. Growing up poor it was guaranteed that his family did not have an inside toilet. If they were lucky they would have had a constructed outhouse. Many times a simple hole dug in the ground was all that people had to use. He eventually did own his own home, and at times would let other members of the family come and live in it. A telephone was put in his house later in life, and eventually he even got a radio, which the family would gather around and listen to almost every evening before bed. One thing that he never had was a car. Every day he would go outside and sit on a stump to watch the cars go by, and would come inside only for meals.¹¹¹ It seems as though he longed for a car, but never had the opportunity to purchase one for himself. Jess passed away in 1955 and was buried in Stilwell Cemetery, where he would later be joined by his wife.

Flora Ann Ewing Seratt (1888-1963) was born in Arkansas in December. Eventually, she moved to the Nicut, Oklahoma area. While in Oklahoma, she married **John Franklin Seratt (1885-1954)**. Not much could be found about her. However, it should be noted that during the 1900 census, she was living in Township 31, Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory, United States.¹¹² This more than likely means that she was considered enough native american to be able to live

¹¹⁰ Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 156.

¹¹¹ Joyce Seratt, Interview with Cheyenne McDonald, 30 September 2017.

¹¹² "United States Census, 1900," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/MSRL-TVH> : accessed 21 November 2017), Flory Ewing in household of Anderson Ewing, Township 31, Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 44, sheet 13A, family 237, NARA microfilm publication T623 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1972.); FHL microfilm 1,241,846.

on the Cherokee reservation, which is near Tahlequah, Oklahoma. When she passed away in 1963, she was buried in Seabolt Cemetery, in Nicut.¹¹³

John Franklin Seratt (1885-1954) was born on March 17 in Winslow, Arkansas. He owned a farm near Nicut, Oklahoma, and spend most of his life farming. Not much is known about John, however his grandson Johnnie Dale, whom was named after his grandfather, remembers him being a fairly simple man who never spoke much. When he died in 1954, he was buried in Seabolt Cemetery, where his wife would later be buried as well¹¹⁴

Mildred O Wild Dickens Williams (1895-1985) was born in Shawneetown, Illinois. She married **John Harvey Williams (1895-1941)**. By 1930 she was living in Webb City, Missouri with her husband and children.¹¹⁵ She passed away on September 24, 1985 in Galena, Kansas, and was buried in Carterville Cemetery in Carterville, Missouri.¹¹⁶

John Harvey Williams (1895-1941) was born on November 13, 1894 in Missouri City, Texas. He married Mildred, and eventually made his way to Webb City, Missouri with her. Sources were hard to come by for him, however, on *findagrave.com* he is listed with the nickname, “Wild Hair”. On the contrary, there is a picture of him on the website that shows his hair perfectly slicked back and parted down the middle. Definitely not the hairstyle one thinks of

¹¹³ Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 20 November 2017), memorial page for Flora A Ewing Seratt (1889–1963), Find A Grave Memorial no. 28550100, citing Seabolt Cemetery, Nicut, Sequoyah County, Oklahoma, USA ; Maintained by Steve Hames (contributor 47027202) .

¹¹⁴ Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 20 November 2017), memorial page for John Franklin Seratt (17 Mar 1885–1954), Find A Grave Memorial no. 28550205, citing Seabolt Cemetery, Nicut, Sequoyah County, Oklahoma, USA ; Maintained by Steve Hames (contributor 47027202) .

¹¹⁵ "United States Census, 1930," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XHFV-DCV> : accessed 21 November 2017), Mildred Williams in household of John H Williams, Webb City, Jasper, Missouri, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 29, sheet 1A, line 41, family 17, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 1205; FHL microfilm 2,340,940.

¹¹⁶ Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 20 November 2017), memorial page for Mildred Ottama Wild Williams (23 Mar 1895–24 Sep 1985), Find A Grave Memorial no. 43355234, citing Carterville Cemetery, Carterville, Jasper County, Missouri, USA ; Maintained by Deb64030 (contributor 47113819).

when they have the nickname “Wild Hair.”¹¹⁷ John passed away on February 23, in Joplin Missouri, and was buried in Carterville Cemetery, where his wife would also be buried next to him.¹¹⁸

¹¹⁷Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 20 November 2017), memorial page for John Harvey “Wild Hair” Williams (13 Nov 1894–23 Feb 1941), Find A Grave Memorial no. 43355235, citing Carterville Cemetery, Carterville, Jasper County, Missouri, USA ; Maintained by Deb64030 (contributor 47113819).

¹¹⁸ Ibid.