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The Family History of Sky Loving

Sky Loving

sloving@gus.pittstate.edu

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Recommended Citation

Loving, Sky, "The Family History of Sky Loving" (2017). *Your Family in History: HIST 550/700*. 52.
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**The Family History of
Sky B. Loving
12 October 2017**

Sky Blue Loving authored this family history as part of the course requirements for HIST 550/700 Your Family in History offered online in Fall 2017 and was submitted to the Pittsburgh State University Digital Commons. Please contact the author directly with any questions or comments:
sloving@gus.pittstate.edu

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List of Direct Line Family Members

Generation One

- A1. Sky Blue Loving (1992-)
- A2. (Unmarried)

Generation Two

- A1a. Melinda McCluskey (1965-)
- A1b. Rudy Lee Loving Sr. (1961-)

Generation Three

- A1a1. Judith Isabelle Robinson (1946-2009)
- A1a2. Thomas Paul McCluskey (1938-)
- A1b1. Aleta D. Dillard (1946-1996)
- A1b2. Henry E. Loving (unk)

Generation Four

- A1a1a. Gladys M. McIntyre (1913-1994)
- A1a1b. Richard H. Robinson (1912-)
- A1a2a. unk
- A1a2b. unk
- A1b1a. Ruby Sweets (1924- deceased)
- A1b1b. Frank Dillard (1922-1983)
- A1b2a. unk
- A1b2b. unk

GENERATION ONE

Sky Blue Loving (1992-) was born in Shawnee, Kansas, at the Shawnee Mission Hospital to **Melinda Sue McCluskey (1966-)** and **Rudy Lee Loving Sr. (1961-)**. Melinda and Rudy had Sky's older brother, **Storm Shadow Loving (1990-)** and decided that his name would be storm because that was the type of day that he was born on. Sky was born on a sky-blue day and that is how he got his name. Sky is fond of the childhood story about when his parent realized he was lactose-intolerant. Sky's parent could not get him to use the restroom and Sky's paternal grandmother, **Aleta Diane Loving (1946- 1996)**, suggested that Sky's mother pump his legs up and down. Sky was told that he covered his mother with baby poop and she would not stick around for a picture.

Sky was raised in Paola, Kansas. He liked the history of Paola, Kansas and tried to acquire as much knowledge over it as possible throughout his childhood. An interesting historical fact that Sky liked about Paola, Kansas, was that John Brown established a military post just west of Bull Creek during the Civil War. Sky always knew that Paola, Kansas, and Osawatomie, Kansas, played a significant role in the history of Bleeding Kansas but he was surprised at how isolated their antislavery views were. Johnson County, Linn County, and Franklin County, all had a large pro-slavery population and even towns within Miami County, were greatly influenced by the policies of Missouri. This helped Sky understand why his ancestors may have chosen

to settle in Paola. It was a safe haven when the rest of the state was divided over whether African Americans should be free or slaves.¹

Sky's parents divorced when he was two years old, so it did not have much of an effect on him until later in life. He does remember living in his grandparents' house up until his father remarried. Sky was fond of his time that he spent with his paternal grandparents, **Henry Earl Loving (unk)** and **Aleta Diane Loving (1946-1996)**. He would go to the laundromat with his paternal grandmother. Even though he was only three, he vividly remembers sitting on the shelf at the laundromat and eating a snack while his grandmother was folding clothes. Sky lived at 408 W. Pankishaw until he was about three and Sky remembers hanging out with all his cousins that lived there and playing with the family dog named, Bear.

Sky's father remarried and his younger sister, **Camisha Loving (1995-)**, was born shortly after. Sky's oldest brother, **Rudy Lee Loving Jr. (1984-)** was always a playful older brother that made sure he kept an eye on all his younger siblings.

Sky began to get visitations with his mother around the age of six. Sky and Storm would stay with their mother while she lived in Lawrence, Kansas, and he has many fond memories of his visitations. He remembers when he visited the Lawrence Public Library with his brother Storm, and they dissected squids through a kid's educational science program. He also spent time with his mother parents, **Judith Isabell McCluskey (1946-2009)** and **Thomas Paul McCluskey (1938-)**. He has fond

¹ Wikipedia: Paola, Kansas." Accessed October. 28,2017. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paola%2C_Kansas

memories of his grandpa cooking breakfast early in the morning and him and his grandmother playing with the family dog, Sam. Visitation became difficult for Sky because his mother was not in the most stable position to for visitation. He stopped visiting his mother around the age of ten.

Sky remembers his time at Sunflower Elementary School in Paola, Kansas, as a very enjoyable part of his life. Sky remembers that the playground seemed endless and that he was able to kick a kickball over the fence of the kickball field. All of Sky's siblings attended Sunflower Elementary School. His father worked at the elementary school as the janitor and his uncle, **Daniel Ray Loving (1978-)** worked as a para for students with special needs. A fond memory for Sky is when his father would allow him to go into the teachers' lounge and get a snack out of the vending machine or when his uncle would join him for lunch at the kids table. Sky's brother Storm was his best friend during his elementary years. He followed Storm everywhere he could. He learned how to play football, basketball, and even how to get in trouble with him. Sky and Storm played in the woods or the creek more than anything else. They would build forts, go day fishing, and catch crawdads for night fishing. Sky's father and Stepmother worked a lot and it was hard to get time off for a vacation. Therefore, Sky and his siblings spent a lot of time together and formed a good relationship. He remembers when his oldest brother, Rudy, would chase him and his other siblings around the house while Sky and his siblings would pretended he was a monster and hide everywhere they could.

Sky began to play county basketball and flag football during Sky's sixth grade years. He did well at basketball and continued to play throughout his middle school years. It was also during his middle school years that Sky began to branch off from his older brother Storm, and spend more time with his friends that he made during school. Sky grew up in Paola, KS his whole life and went to school with many of the same friends from preschool to senior graduation. He still has a many of these friends today.

Church was a big part of Sky's life. He spent a major portion of his childhood in the family Baptist church on his paternal side. His paternal grandfather was one of the deacons, his uncle-in-law was the pastor, and his family made up the rest of the congregation. His father would always attend Sunday service and Wednesday bible study and Sky would tag along. Sky remembers his father telling him that the church has never changed. He would say, the people are always welcoming and there was a concentrated effort to include everyone in the "family." There were only about thirty or forty people in the church, which made it easy for everyone to bond. Every Sunday and Wednesday felt like a family reunion and seemed to always lead to a big meal at the huge table downstairs. One event that is imprinted in Sky's memory is what he did the last Sunday of every month. After the service was done everyone would form a line and begin singing "This may be the last timex3, may be the last time we all get together, may be the last time but I don't know" over and over again. While singing he would go down the line hugging and shaking each other's hands. This was very important to Sky's father and family because it was the last

time that we were able to visit with some of our family members. Sky and his sister Camisha participated in religious duets and spiritual interpretive dances during religious events. He also has fond memories of church camp.

Sky's father, Rudy Sr., went into a coma during the beginning of his freshman year in high school. It stemmed from pneumonia and over sedation by the hospital. After Rudy Sr. was in the coma for about two months, he was pronounced brain dead by his doctors. The Loving family and other close family members prayed around his bed for over three months until his body miraculously began to function again.

Sky was held back and had to repeat his first year at Paola High because of the number of days he missed during the time he spent with his father at the hospital. Sky was able to pass both his freshman and sophomore year during his second year of high school because he attended the alternative school part-time and the high school the rest of the time. It was a challenging time in his life, but he is able to reflect, and say that it made him a stronger person. Sky's sister, Camisha, was able to convince him to run track his junior year even though he did terrible in cross-country previously that year. He was a natural half-mile runner. He aided the track and field team at Paola High to win the State Championship. The highlights of Sky's senior year was that he graduated from high school in 2011 and when he was offered a cross country and track scholarship to Neosho County Community college in Chanute, Kansas. Sky had a lot of success in athletics during his sophomore year at Neosho County Community College. Him and the other members of the 3200-meter relay race placed

7th in the nation at nationals and he became an All-Americans. Sky received his Associates of Science through Neosho County Community College in 2014.

Sky then Transferred to Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas. He began studying history and secondary education while running track. The 3200-meter relay that he was on, placed 9th in the nation at indoor nationals and 17th in the nation at outdoor nationals in 2015. He realized that Southwestern was too expensive and transferred to Pittsburg State University where he finished out his track eligibility and pursued his bachelors of Science in secondary history education.

GENERATION TWO

A1a. Melinda Sue McCluskey (1966-)
A1b. Rudy Lee Loving Sr. (1961-)

Melinda Sue McCluskey (1966-) was born to **Judith Isabell Robinson (1946-2009)** and **Thomas Paul McCluskey (1938-)** in the greater Kansas City area. She had one older brother, **Richard McCluskey (unk)**, a younger brother, **Mark McCluskey (unk)**, and a younger sister, **Jodie McCluskey (unk)**. She spent her childhood moving around a lot.

Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout's book, *Century of Difference: How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years*, chronicles the 20th century and tries to explain how America and Americans changed

demographically, economically, and culturally. They employ the use of graphs, charts, and other tools to provide a detailed visual of their research. Figure 6.6, "Households with key Domestic Goods, by year" shows how household ownership of certain items like toilets, telephones, and automobiles increased over time. It also shows the percentage of people that own homes by year.² The percentage of Americans purchasing homes during the 1970s was just above 60%, which shows that Sky's mothers living arrangements was unique during this time.

During her elementary years, she bounced from Ohio to Kansas. Her mother and father purchased a home in Louisburg, Kansas during her middle school years. Melinda stated that the house that her parents purchased previously belonged to family members of Abraham Lincoln.

Her father was able to get a job at the Ford factory in Kansas City, Kansas, after graduating high school. He was able to provide for his family decently well. Claude Fischer's book, *Made in America*, discusses the family wealth from 1900 to 2000. It states, "wealth declined during the middle of the twentieth century, dropping most sharply during the world wars and the New Deal era, and that it continued to decline into the 1960s and perhaps 1970s."³ The book also states that annual income began to rise during the last three decades of the century because rising stock value and capital gains from selling stock rose. The rise in wealth during the last three decades

² 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.

³ Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference: How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years*. (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 149

of the twentieth century is seen because Sky's mother lived in a purchased home and had many different luxuries.

Sky's mother enjoyed her time while she was in Middle School. The house in Louisburg, Kansas, was a ranch style home with enough land to care for other rancher's horses, had a wooded area, a pond, and trails to ride the horses. Melinda has fond memories of riding her horses throughout her middle school years. An event she remembers well is when she was riding her horse, and something cut the leg of her horse. The horse was bleeding badly. She was frightened but did not want to ride the horse back, so she walked her horse back to the house. She remembers that she was paying close attention to the grass and made sure she was safe before putting down either foot.

Melinda's parents knew that she had a natural talent for instruments and the arts, but Melinda wanted to focus more on the instruments. Specifically, the piano and the guitar. She quickly learned how to play both throughout her middle school years and was skilled at the guitar by the time she entered high school. She remembers that she never had any formal training with her instruments and learned many of the songs that she knew just by listening to them. She remembers listening to Fleetwood Mac songs and trying to sing and play them at the same time. She began to go to rock concerts towards her high school years but did not have the money to go as often as she wished she could.

Melinda's life began to get a little unstable during her first two years in high school. Her parents were beginning to drink a little too much and it was easy to forget about school. She dropped out her

sophomore year. She said she spent a lot of time working and going to concerts with her older brother Richard. One of her fondest memories was going to the arcade that was in Paola, Kansas. This is where Melinda met Rudy Lee Loving Sr. They married and had their first child, **Rudy Lee Loving Jr. (1984-)**. She describes his birth as somewhat difficult and was considered a lucky birth because of the miscarriages before him. When Rudy Jr. was born, he had Colic and Melinda remembers taking turns all night with Rudy Sr.'s sisters at taking care of him. She remembers that after some time Rudy Jr. started feeling better and she was able to sleep. She gives a lot of the credit for curing Rudy Jr.'s sickness to Rudy Sr.'s mother, **Aleta Diane Loving (1946- 1996)**. Six years after she had Rudy Jr., She had **Storm Shadow Loving (1990-)**, and **Sky Blue Loving (1992-)** four years later. Melinda and Rudy Sr. divorced in 1995. Claude Fischer's book, *Made in America* gives some insight on the ratio of divorces from 1920 to 1970. Fischer states that there were thirty-three divorces per one hundred marriages in 1970 but it peaked in the early 1990s⁴. Sky's mother later went on to live in Lawrence and other cities throughout Kansas.

Rudy Lee Loving Sr. (1961-) was born in Paola, Kansas, to **Aleta Diane Loving (1946-1995)** and **Henry Earl Loving (unk)**. He had five younger sisters and two younger brothers. He remembers that a family friend named Ms. Wilson babysat him. She taught him how to write his name, his alphabet, and how to count to ten which was the

⁴ Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference: How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years*. (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 70

qualifications to start school. She also owned a small convenience store on the north-west side of Paola that was primarily visited by the African American community in Paola. He remembers going there quite often and getting trivial things on credit when he was a young child.

He had many fond memories during his elementary years. Some of his favorite hobbies were fishing at the creek and trapping raccoons with his uncle. He went to school at South Elementary School that was located on south Pearl Street in Paola, Kansas. He remembers that Mr. Jones, the principal, was a no "nonsense" type of man. A very vivid memory of his was when he was in his Ms. Robinson's third grade class and got the paddle from the principal for talking too much during this class. It has now been torn down and houses have been built where it once was.

Another fond memory that Rudy Sr. had during his elementary years was when he went to the Kansas City Zoo with his grandmother. He also went with his younger sister **Lisa Loving (1963-)** and younger brother **Kevin Loving (1965-)**. Rudy remembers riding the elephant while his mother watched. He eventually made going to the Kansas City Zoo an annual tradition for him and his kids.

Religion was also a major part of Rudy's life. He was born a Baptist and baptized before he could walk or talk. Fischer's book, *Made in America* devotes some attention to the restricting of American Protestantism and how the "mainline" denominations have decreased in size between 1900 and 2000. Figure 8.5, Protestants' Specific Denominations, by Cohort (Year Turned Sixteen), shows the comparative

youth data between Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Lutherans, Baptist, and Others. The data shows how Baptists and Others have increased their percentage of youth participants while the other denominations have had a steady decrease in youth participants.⁵

He attended First Mount Olivet Baptist Church and it was full of all his family members. He remembers that his grandmother, **Charlie Ruth (unk)** would pick him up every Sunday and make him go to church. He was not allowed to miss church, no matter what. Rudy Sr. likes to tell one particularly funny story about his childhood years at church. He said that a lot of kids would get in trouble for doing many different mischievous things while they were at church so all his cousins, including him, would get a routine whooping after church.

Rudy remembers getting the freedom to walk to school during his middle school years. He went to Paola Middle School, which is now the new Fire Department. It was during Rudy Sr.'s middle school years that he got into sports. He wrestled, played basketball, baseball, and football while also excelling as a student. He remembers that Paola, Kansas, had inner-city football teams while he was in middle school. They were called the Colts and the Chiefs and they were sponsored by local businesses. He remembers that it became very competitive during this period. Rudy Sr. was on the Chiefs and played the right tackle and center. His coach was a fun but hard type of person. His team ended up winning the championship that year.

⁵ Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference: How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years*. (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 197

A fond memory of Rudy Sr.'s was when he went on trips with his aunt and uncle. They visited Kentucky a few times and Tennessee. While he was in Tennessee, he visited many historic sites, including Graceland, the home of Elvis Presley.

Rudy Sr.'s middle school years were very eventful. He remembers that he went to a funeral with his father during his 7th-grade year and it was in a small town in southern Mississippi. He remembers going into a small gas station when he was close to the town and being called a racial slur multiple times. He remembers his father telling him to just let it be and go on about your day. He was surprised at how up-front the clerk was even though he experienced racism back in Kansas.

It was during Rudy Sr.'s high school years that he began to go to concerts and listen to more music. He said he attended many rock concerts and hung out with friends more. His mother and father bought Rudy Sr. his first car, a 1961 Volkswagen Fast. Rudy remembers that many of his friends built and drove muscle cars. He said that driving these cars fast and drinking was a major problem for his class. A lot of his friends passed away from drinking and driving which made him make sure that his kids knew how dangerous it could be. Rudy excelled at football during his junior and senior year. His senior football team won the State Championship and became the first football team in Paola High to have an undefeated season. He finished high school in 1980.

Rudy met Sky's mother, Melinda, while he was working at an arcade in Paola, Kansas. He remembers that he was about three years older

than she was and many people in the town of Paola, Kansas, and Melinda's town, Louisburg, Kansas did not approve of an interracial couple. Rudy has many stories about how he and Melinda were treated because of their relationship. A large portion of Sky's paternal side did not agree with the marriage between Rudy and Melinda. A memory that Sky's father remembers vividly is he and Melinda being chased through some cornfields in Hillsdale, Kansas, by Sky's maternal grandfather and some friends of his. He believes that they would have killed him if they caught him. This was in the mid-1980s.

Figure 3.9, *Opposition to Laws Banning Marriages Between Blacks and Whites, by Year and Year of Birth*, shows the national trend against intermarriage bans. It shows how the pace of opposing intermarriage bans slowed between the 1970s and 1980s. While in the year 2000, 87% of those polled said that they would not ban black-white marriages. Fischer states that southerners were far behind the national opposition to intermarriages percentages. Fifty-four percent of southerners opposed intermarriages while approximately seventy-five percent of the nation agreed with intermarriages.⁶

Rudy Sr. became comfortable in life during his thirty's and forties but was affected by pneumonia and hospital malpractice which almost cost him his life. He went in with pneumonia and was over sedated by his hospital. His heart stopped once before the coma and once during a panic attack after he woke up. Rudy Sr. remembers very little from his time in a coma. He says it was just a lonely, never-

⁶ Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference: How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years*. (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 51

ending darkness but he did have a sense of people being around him. Rudy Sr. believes that a higher power is the main reason he is alive today. This incident made Rudy appreciate little aspects about his life and pushed him to become a better person all around. His current hobbies are still fishing and hunting.

GENERATION THREE

A1a1. Judith Isabelle Robinson (1946-2009)

A1a2. Thomas Paul McCluskey (1938-)

A1b1. Aleta Diane Loving (1946-1996)

A1b2. Henry Earl Loving (unk)

Sky's maternal grandmother, **Judith Isabelle Robinson (1946-2009)**, was born in Yonkers, New York. Her parents, **Gladys M. Robinson (1913-1994)**, and **Richard H. Robinson (1912-)**, were born in New York also.

Yonkers, New York, began as a 24,000-acre land grant called Colen Donck. The land was purchased in 1645. Yonkers, New York, had a fluctuating population between 1950 and 1960. It went from 152,798 in 1950 to 190,634 in 1960. The 1960s census survey also reported that Yonkers, New York, was 95% White and 4.0% Black. Yonkers, New York,

was also known for their discrimination and segregation leading up to the Civil Rights Movement.⁷

Judith later moved to Wellsville, Kansas, with her mother and sisters. Her family used to visit a grocery store in Edgerton, Kansas, because they knew the family that owned it. This was how Judith met **Thomas Paul McCluskey (1938-)**. He was working at his family's grocery store as a shelver and bagger.

Judith married Thomas and they had three children. **Richard McCluskey (unk)**, **Melinda Sue McCluskey (1966-)**, and **Mark McCluskey (unk)**. They bought a home and lived in Louisburg, Kansas, during the beginning of their marriage.

Judith's marriage began to go through problems during the early 2000s. Thomas and her both drank too much alcohol which created problems during everyday life.

Judith moved around the greater Kansas City area after the divorce was finished. She started to spend more time with her children, especially her daughter Melinda.

Sky's maternal grandmother passed away in 2009.⁸ She had a special ceremony. Her ashes were spread throughout some of her favorite places.

Sky's maternal grandfather, **Thomas Paul McCluskey (1938-)**, grew up in Edgerton, Kansas. Thomas's history is complicated to put together

⁷ "Wikipedia: Paola, Kansas." Accessed on November. 17, 2017. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yonkers,_New_York#19th_century
"United States Social Security Death Index," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/JGGX-8MG> : 20 May 2014), JUDITH ISABELLE MCCLUSKEY, 18 Sep 2009; citing U.S. Social Security Administration, *Death Master File*, database (Alexandria, Virginia: National Technical Information Service, ongoing).⁸

because he was adopted when he was young. Thomas did like to share the stories that he could remember from his childhood before adoption with Sky and his brothers. Thomas always said that he remembers his mother struggling to provide for him and that his father was not around. He said that he remembers his mother moved them to a Native American reservation in Oklahoma because the cost of living was cheap. He vividly remembers that he spent a lot of time with his mother while she was at the bar.

Thomas was adopted around the age of four and remembers that he was grateful for the transition in life.

Thomas has fond memories of his adoptive family. They lived in Edgerton, Kansas, and owned the main grocery store in the town. He remembers spending long hours working in the grocery store. Sky's maternal grandfather also likes to tell the story that he worked with one of the killers from the *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote story. Thomas was able to graduate high school and get a job at the Ford factory in Kansas City, Kansas. Thomas did have an adoptive brother that he liked to talk about often. His name was **Paul McCluskey (unk)**. He served and died during World War II.

In Figure 5.15 "Unemployment, by Year and Education" Fischer and Hoyt divide the United States based on the year and education of citizens that are unemployed. The chart shows how education affected the chances of being unemployed after the great depression. Is also stated that the data is only for nonblack because of the unusually low participation in the labor force. The figure shows unemployment trends in three different educations groups, No Diploma, High school Diploma,

and college Degree. The information shows that unemployment shrank between 1950 and 1970 because of the economic rebound after the war. It also highlights that a person with a college degree has always been below 3.0 unemployment rate and a person with no Diploma had a steep incline between 1970 and 1990 but has steadily declining on all three categories.

Sky's paternal grandfather grew up in Edgerton, Kansas. He received his High School Diploma from Edgerton and was expected to continue his education at KU but he began work at a Ford Factory in Kansas City. He was able to acquire a good paying job that only required a High Diploma and stayed working there for over 25 years. If Sky's Grandfather had not gained his High School Diploma, he might not have been able to get a job at the Ford Plant. He would have been among the "No Diploma" category which had a 2.5% increase on the unemployment rate during the 1960's.⁹

Thomas married Judith while he was working for the Ford factory. They had three children but divorced while two of their children were in high school. Thomas did not handle the divorce extremely well. He moved around a lot and seemed to drink more often. The death of Judith was also a traumatizing incident. This pushed Thomas to quit drinking later in life and he now acts as an alcoholic's anonymous sponsor for some individuals. He eventually resettled back in Edgerton, Kansas, which is where he lives today.

⁹ Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference: How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years*. (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 129

Sky's paternal grandmother, **Aleta Diane Loving (1946-1996)**, was born in Paola, Kansas. She went by either Diane¹⁰ or Aleta¹¹ but her grandkids primarily called her "Grandma Diane." Family surrounded her because there was a significant percentage of the Dillard family living in Miami County, Kansas. Sky's paternal grandmother's family can be traced back to Kentucky during the mid and late 19th century. This is before they migrated to Kansas during the early 20th century. The *Lexington Standard* was one of the more prominent African-American newspapers in Kentucky during the early 20th century. It published articles from different African-American newspapers from around the nation and seemed to focus on the livelihood of African-Americans in the south. A specific issue shown in the 1900 publications shows a lot of sectionalism among the African-American demographic in the southern states.¹² Which could provide a reason for why Sky's paternal great-grandfather migrated from Kentucky to Kansas.

There was not much to do in Paola, Kansas, while Aleta was going up. She spent most of her time going to church and playing with her siblings. She had six brothers and sisters. A memory of Aleta is that she loved to bowl while she was younger and loved to care for any type of animal. She had a pet rabbit when she was younger.

¹⁰ "United States Public Records, 1970-2009," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/2S6G-Y2L> : 23 May 2014), Diane A Loving, Residence, Paola, Kansas, United States; a third party aggregator of publicly available information.

¹¹ "United States Public Records, 1970-2009," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/QJW2-RL48> : 23 May 2014), Aleta D Loving, Residence, Paola, Kansas, United States; a third party aggregator of publicly available information.

¹² The *Lexington standard*. (Lexington, Ky.), 27 Jan. 1900. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress.

Aleta met **Henry Earl Loving (unk)** when she was still in high school. She became pregnant with her oldest child, **Rudy Lee Loving Sr. (1961-)**, when she was a sophomore and had to drop out of high school. She got married to Henry shortly after the birth of Rudy Sr. Diane moved around a lot with Henry during the beginning stages of the marriage, but they settled down at 6 north mulberry street in Paola, Kansas. She spent most of her time taking care of her children and going to church. Her hobbies were going to bingo and playing cards with family members.

Sky's paternal grandmother was the cohesive force for the Loving family. The family completely scattered when Diane passed away in 1996.

Sky's does not have a lot of information about his paternal grandfather, **Henry Earl Loving (unk)** because he does not have birthing records. He was born in Philadelphia, Mississippi, and might be in his late 70s. Philadelphia, Mississippi, was located in the heart of the Choctaw Nation prior to their removal in the 1830s. It had a relatively small population throughout the 1940s and 1950s with less than 5,000 residents. Philadelphia, Mississippi, became a battleground cite for the Civil Rights Movement. Three activists were killed there and a deputy sheriff was charged with involvement with the Ku Klux Klan and the murder of three African American prisoners.¹³

¹³ "Wikipedia: Philadelphia, Mississippi." Accessed on November. 20, 2017. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philadelphia,_Mississippi

He married **Aleta Diane Dillard (1946-1996)** in Paola, Kansas¹⁴, and had eight children. Henry remarried after Aleta passed away and became the pastor of a church near Lane, Kansas. He now lives in Lane, Kansas.

GENERATION FOUR

A1a1a. Gladys M. McIntyre (1913-1992)

A1a1b. Richard Robinson (1912-)

A1a2a. unk

A1a2b. unk

¹⁴ "United States Public Records, 1970-2009," database, *FamilySearch*(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:2MDS-XBY> : 23 May 2014), Henry E Loving, Residence, Paola, Kansas, United States; a third party aggregator of publicly available information.

A1b1a. Ruby Sweets (1924-)
A1b1b. Frank Dillard Sr. (1922-1983)

A1b2a. unk
A1b2b. unk

Sky's maternal great-grandmother, **Gladys M. McIntyre (1913- 1994)**, was born in New York and raised in Yonkers, Ward 7, Westchester, New York. Her parents, **Isabel McIntyre (1875-)** and **William McIntyre (1874-)** were also born in New York. Gladys had an older brother named **William McIntyre Jr. (1912-)** that also grew up in the same household.¹⁵

The *New- York tribune's* November issue from 1913 provides some insight on how Sky's maternal grandmother may have lived during this time. The issue states that the removal of a mansion marks the beginning of a real estate evolution. Southern Yonkers, New York, was transformed into an area with modern suburban homes and apartment houses while many of the surrounding regions were complete with city lighting. Sky's paternal great-grandmother might not have lived in a same ward that the New-York tribune issue was covering but the city growth and infrastructural expansion of Yonkers, New York, directly affected her by increasing her surrounding population, and by provided different living opportunities.¹⁶

Sky's maternal great-grandfather, **Richard Robinson (1912-)**, was born to **Frank S Robinson (1871-deceased)** and **Prudence H. Robinson**

¹⁵ "United States Census, 1920," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/MV3N-MHF> : accessed 15 November 2017), Gladys McIntyre in household of William McIntyre, Yonkers Ward 7, Westchester, New York, United States; citing ED 253, sheet 12B, line 55, family 258, NARA microfilm publication T625 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1992), roll 1280; FHL microfilm 1,821,280.

¹⁶ *New-York tribune*. (New York [N.Y.]), 23 Nov. 1913. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress.

(1885-deceased), in New York¹⁷. He lived at Ward 3, Yonkers, Yonkers City, after he got married to Sky's maternal great-grandmother.¹⁸

Sky's paternal great-grandmother, **Ruby Sweets (1924-)**, was born in Clarinda, Iowa.¹⁹ Her parents are **Ella Harper (unk)** and **Herman Sweet (unk)**²⁰ but there is very little information about them. Sky's father remembers that his "Grandma Ruby" would tell stories about why she came to Paola, Kansas. According to the story, Ruby did not have the best home life and her father was not a good person. She ran away from her home with one of her cousins and a younger sister when she was fourteen. Ruby used to say that she rode in a few train cars and walked in the blistering cold to make it to Paola, which was where some family was supposed to live.²¹ Sky's father remembers a lot about his "grandma." He said that she would frequently play bingo during the

¹⁷ "United States Census, 1930," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/X4GG-YBG> : accessed 21 November 2017), Richard H Robinson in household of Frank S Robinson, Yonkers, Westchester, New York, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 56, sheet 25A, line 30, family 73, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 1668; FHL microfilm 2,341,402.

¹⁸ "United States Census, 1940," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/K31R-PB9> : accessed 15 November 2017), Gladys M Robinson in household of Richard H Robinson, Ward 3, Yonkers, Yonkers City, Westchester, New York, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 68-26A, sheet 61A, line 25, family 390, 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 2863.

¹⁹ "Iowa, County Births, 1880-1935," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/XVXX-JF2> : 20 May 2016), Ruby Sweet, 01 Mar 1924; citing Clarinda, Page, Iowa, United States; county district courts, Iowa; FHL microfilm 1,535,554.

²⁰ "United States Census, 1930," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/XMVD-PTR> : accessed 20 November 2017), Ruby Sweets in household of Herman Sweets, Clarinda, Page, Iowa, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 23, sheet 1A, line 34, family 6, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 672; FHL microfilm 2,340,407.

²¹ "United States Census, 1940," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/VRKL-2GM> : accessed 20 November 2017), Ruby Sweets in household of Lester Lindsey, Ward 2, Paola, Paola City, Miami, Kansas, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 61-15, sheet 11A, line 14, family 311, 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 1246.

week and lived on the east side of Paola, Kansas, which was the richer side of town. Sky's father also remembers that his "grandma" was good at saving money.

A particularly fond memory that Sky's father had of Sky's paternal great-grandmother was her bible. Sky's father said that it was the biggest and thickest bible that he had ever seen. Sky's father also remembered that Ruby did not believe in going to church. She believed that many of the people that went to her church were using the church as a cover for the bad things they had done.

Sky's father remembers that Ruby used to gather a substantial portion of the family on special nights and get them to play poker. This was always a good night for Sky's father because he remembers that his "grandma" would always have snacks and candy.

Sky's paternal grandmother was said to be a very superstitious woman. Sky's father remembers that she came on a trip to Louisiana with his aunt and uncle. Sky's father remembers that a person tried to take a picture of his "grandma" and she was ready to fight the man that took the picture. Sky's father said the Ruby believed that someone could capture your soul if they took your picture. Sky's father also remembers that Ruby feared some of the creole people because she believed their eyes were scary and different.

Sky's paternal grandmother wrote poetry later in life and has a published poetry book according to Sky's father.

Sky's paternal great grandfather, **Frank Dillard Sr. (1922-1983)** was born in Paola, Kansas, to **Elowease Dillard (unk)** and **Samuel Dillard**

(unk).²² Sky's paternal great-grandfather also went by his middle name, Leonard.²³ There is not very much information about Sky's paternal great-grandfather. Sky's father remembers that Frank was a short but stocky man. He was a self-proclaimed Kansas City Slicker, which is a hustler. Sky's father remembers that he had nice hair that was curly and silver.

A fond memory that Sky's father had about Sky's paternal great-grandfather was that he liked to share stories about his life during the depression. Sky's father remembers that he said that they were eating almost anything that they could get their hands on which included cats, dogs, and any kind of bird that they could catch.

Sky's paternal great-grandfather also told stories about his family being bootleggers. He told Sky's father that he would deliver moonshine by taking back roads from Kansas to Minnesota.

The Topeka State Journal was the main Newspaper for the northeastern portion of Kansas. Many Kansans would have read this paper because they had a wide range for the stories that they covered. The 1922 issue gives some insight on the gas rate in Paola, Kansas, and how Paola, Kansas, backed out of their gas rate agreement with a local

²² "United States Census, 1930," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/X7Q2-DFB> : accessed 19 November 2017), Sam Dillard, Paola, Miami, Kansas, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 13, sheet 6A, line 44, family 170, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 711; FHL microfilm 2,340,446.

²³ "United States Census, 1930," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/X7Q2-DN9> : accessed 19 November 2017), Leonard F Dillard in household of Sam Dillard, Paola, Miami, Kansas, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 13, sheet 6A, line 47, family 170, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 711; FHL microfilm 2,340,446.

distributor. This could have affected Sky's paternal great-grandfather ability to pay for gas.²⁴

Sky's paternal great-grandfather was a painter and did odd jobs before he passed away in 1983²⁵.

²⁴ *The Topeka state journal*. (Topeka, Kan.), 08 July 1922. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress.

²⁵ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 21 November 2017), memorial page for Frank L. Dillard, Sr (21 Feb 1922–23 Feb 1983), Find A Grave Memorial no. 35385035, citing Paola Cemetery, Paola, Miami County, Kansas, USA ; Maintained by Thomas & Darlene (contributor 47024881) .