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The Family History of Austin B. Stapleton

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The Family History of

Austin B. Stapleton

19 November 2017

Austin B. Stapleton authored this family history as part of the course requirements for HIST 550 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: astapleton@gus.pittstate.edu or austinbstapleton@outlook.com.

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List of Direct Line Family Members.

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- A1. Austin B. Stapleton (1993-)**
- A2. Sylvia M. Singmaster Stapleton (1992-)**

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- A1a. Misty D. McKenzie Stapleton Pietrzak (1974-)**
- A1b. David L. Stapleton, Jr. (1974-)**

Generation Three

- A1a1. Angela D. Yeakey McKenzie Webb (1956-2009)**
- A1a2. Jerry L. McKenzie (1958-2014)**
- A1b1. Carol A. Chamberlin Cox Wilson Stapleton (1947-2015)**
- A1b2. David L. Stapleton, Sr. (1950-)**

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- A1a1b. Robert Lee Yeakey (1923-1974)**
- A1a2a. unknown (unknown)**
- A1a2b. unknown (unknown)**
- A1b1a. Rosemary Demery (1928-2003)**
- A1b1b. Joseph Chamberlin (unknown)**
- A1b2a. Viola M. Ryan (1919-1990)**
- A1b2b. James R. Stapleton (1920-1961)**

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A1a1a2. Albert Reed (unknown)

A1a1b1. Walter S. Yeakey (1893-1950)

A1a1b2. Flora D. Morris (1895-1964)

A1a2a1. Unknown (unknown)

A1a2a2. unknown (unknown)

A1a2b1. Unknown (unknown)

A1a2b2. unknown (unknown)

A1b1a1. Ina M. Larue Demery (1902-1987)

A1b1a2. Walter L. Demery (1898-1973)

A1b1b1. unknown (unknown)

A1b1b2. unknown (unknown)

A1b2a1. Ethel E. Yeager Ryan (1893-1957)

A1b2a2. Homer L. Ryan (1885-1937)

A1b2b1. Mattie L. Hudson Stapleton (1892-1968)

A1b2b2. Jesse R. Stapleton (1895-1963)

GENERATION ONE

A1. Austin B. Stapleton (1993-)

A2. Sylvia M. Singmaster Stapleton (1992-)

Austin B. Stapleton (1993-) was born at Freeman Hospital in Joplin, Missouri, in 1993 to **Misty D. McKenzie Stapleton Pietrzak (1974-)** and **David L. Stapleton, Jr. (1974-)**. Austin was born prematurely due to health issues that Misty was experiencing. Austin was taken for further care needs and spent some time in the hospital before Misty and David were able to take him home. Several days and an IV to the top of the cranium later, and the Stapleton family was able to take their baby boy, Austin, home to their house on E. 8th Street in Joplin, Missouri.

Austin began life growing more slowly than other children his age due to premature birth. After a couple of years of growing at a slower rate, Austin began to catch up to his peers in height and weight. Throughout his early years, Austin spent much of his time with his maternal grandmother, or “Nana,” as he called her. **Angela D. Yeakey McKenzie Webb (1956-2009)** stepped in and helped raise Austin after Misty and David divorced in 1995. From a very young age, Austin spent much of his time with his maternal grandmother. They would go to dirt track races on North 43 highway, just north of Joplin, Missouri, when the weather allowed. Austin also enjoyed spending time with Angela’s mother. **Anna M. Reed Yeakey Selves (1927-2014)** played a key role in Austin’s life.

Some favorite events that Austin frequented with both his maternal grandmother, Angela, and maternal great-grandmother, Anna, included family dinners and pitching in to help Anna complete repairs or projects at her home on E. 8th street in Joplin, Missouri, which was just across the street from Austin, Misty, and David’s first

home. Most weekends during the late 1990s or early 2000s, you could find Austin with Angela and Anna shampooing carpets, mowing lawns, sharing a Happy Meal from McDonalds, or cooking up a family meal in Anna's kitchen. When projects required adult-only attention, Austin would often play with Matchbox and Hot Wheels die cast cars and color pictures for his family in the living room of Anna's house. Like most childhoods, all fun things or favorite things change with the times. In 1999, when Austin left Misty to live with David and Stephanie, Austin's stepmother, the frequent trips to see Anna and Angela became less frequent.

When Austin went to live with David and Stephanie, he was required to move to another town, Carl Junction, Missouri, where he would stay in the name sake's school district throughout his public-school years. Most of his maturing happened here.

Carl Junction, or CJ as it is often referred to, is in Jasper County, Missouri, and is located 8 miles northwest of Joplin, and is considered a part of the Joplin Metropolitan area. Austin lived with his father and stepmother in Carl Junction for 14 years before moving to Pittsburg for secondary education. He attended Carl Junction schools from the second semester of first grade through high school graduation. His stepmother's family settled in the Carl Junction area long ago when the railroad junction located there was first established. There were even legends from his stepmom's family about their ancestors helping Jesse James hideout in a cave system on their property, which his step-grandparents still own.

The railroad junction named after Charles Carl, took Carl's last name as its name sake and wasn't even really a town at its inception in 1878. Rather, just a post office was named Carl's Junction Post office.

The Wikipedia page for Carl Junction, Missouri, showcases a few events that have affected the town over the last several years. For example, in May 2003, a large tornado devastated the town. In addition, a Bluegrass Festival is held there every year at the end of September. Carl Junction is a community founded upon rich railroad culture and exhibits Bluegrass roots in its annual celebration. Although he was born in Joplin, Austin was proud to call Carl Junction, Missouri, his hometown¹.

While he stayed in touch with his family on his mother's side, Austin also developed familial ties with Stephanie's family. They welcomed him like one of their own blood relatives, with open hearts and arms. Some of Austin's fondest memories were created with his "new" family. Stephanie's biological family introduced Austin as their own and are responsible for a plethora of Austin's most fond memories. For example, Austin's first experience with livestock was at Stephanie's parent's farm on W. Emerald Rd. in Joplin. Austin's new family took him to Walt Disney World in January of 2005. Jane and Steve, Stephanie's parents, gave Austin his first job, at their business, Dependable Heating and Air. Stephanie's parents also gave Austin his first vehicle, a red 1998 Ford Ranger. Most of all, Austin's new family provided security and love. They provided a stable, nurturing environment that fostered new, awesome, family experiences that Austin had never had.

David started teaching Austin about sports at a very young age. From Peewee Football at the Joplin YMCA, to throwing the shot-put and discus for Jr. High sporting events, David tried to instill the skills and leadership abilities that are taught from sports

¹ Wikipedia. "Carl Junction, Missouri." Accessed September 6, 2017. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carl_Junction,_Missouri

involvement from an early age. Although Austin did not end up pursuing sports once he was in high school, they played a vital role in his development. During his high school years, Austin found his niche in the choral music and acting scenes. He developed life-long relationships at this stage in his life with teachers and peers alike.

Throughout his high school career, Austin loved being involved in drama productions and individual and ensemble music competitions. He loved the endurance that these events built and loved what he did in each department. It wasn't uncommon for Austin to spend several hours each week after school practicing for music and drama events. This was the niche that helped him flourish into the young adult he was becoming. It was these events and practices and performances that made Austin realize that life was not always easy and that it took true grit to persevere life's storms and trials. During his high school years, Austin's maternal grandmother, Angela, lost her battle with cancer in 2009. He also experienced his first heartache during these formative years, too. Anna (Austin's maternal great-grandmother) had always been a rock for his faith, and he often remembered her wisdom and consulted her. Towards the end of his high school years, Anna's health began to decline. As a result, Austin couldn't consult her as often as he would have liked, so for a short time Austin fell away from his faith.

After graduation, Austin moved to Pittsburg, Kansas, where he pursued a Bachelor of Music degree at Pittsburg State University. In 2012, he moved into the dorms and became acquainted with his roommates and brothers from Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, a music fraternal order. Michael Griffin, Dana Thurmond, Alex Beck, and Gabby Willbee became Austin's close friends during his time at Pittsburg State.

In late September of 2012, Austin found faith again. He started a small stipendiary position singing as a tenor for the church choir at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, in Pittsburg, Kansas. After several months of serving in the choir, Austin took on an additional role at St. Peter's. In January of 2013, Austin began formal training as a Campus Peer Minister for the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas under the guidance and direction of Scott and Victoria Howard, of Pittsburg, Kansas, The Reverend William G Wolff, of Pittsburg, Kansas, and Reverends Michael Bell and Stephanie Jenkins, of Lawrence, Kansas. As Austin continued his studies in music, a short-lived thought came to fruition of serving in a larger role in the Church, and possibly being ordained after his Bachelor degree was earned. Austin attended lay leader training and conventions for and with the Diocese in Topeka over the next few years. For a short while, after Rev. Wolff retired, Austin led Morning Prayer services along with Scott Howard at St. Peter's in Pittsburg.

During the latter years of Austin's collegiate career, he met his wife, **Sylvia Singmaster (1992-)**, through a mutual friend. Shortly after returning from an overseas trip to Wales and England with the Pittsburg State Choir, Austin fell ill for a few months. He was diagnosed with Epstein-Bar Virus and recovery lasted quite a while. Sylvia lived just thirty miles north of Pittsburg, in Fort Scott, Kansas. During Austin's illness, Sylvia took him in and cared for him. After recovering from EBV, Austin decided to move to Fort Scott and find full time employment while finishing a Bachelor's degree online at Pittsburg State University.

GENERATION TWO

A1a. Misty D. McKenzie Stapleton Pietrzak (1974-)

A1b. David L. Stapleton, Jr. (1974-)

Misty D. McKenzie Stapleton Pietrzak (1974-) was born on 28 October 1974 to **Angela D. Yeakey McKenzie Webb (1956-2009)** and **Jerry L. McKenzie (1958-2014)** in Joplin, Missouri. During her pregnancy with Misty, Angela and Jerry decided to separate. So, from birth, Misty did not see her father much. On the rare occasion she did see her dad, the visits were often short. Jerry developed a taste for alcohol that led to alcoholism in his early life. The short visits with Misty were often while he was drinking or when he was drunk. After a few years, Angela remarried and had two more children with Jim Webb, of Joplin, Missouri. Misty moved with her mom into the home that Jim provided for Angela. She helped her mom and Jim raise her brothers Brian Webb, of Webb City, Missouri, and Jason Webb, of Joplin, Missouri.

Growing up with two brothers proved to be interesting for Misty. She often recalls about how life was with the boys at different stages. For example, Misty said she remembered a time when the boys absolutely adored her. Misty would care for them in the evenings when both Jim and Angela would work odd hours. A lot of the memories Misty shared with me come from the early teen years, when Jason and Brian were beginning to rebel against their parents in various ways. "Typical boy stuff," is what she stated. The boys would often stay out past curfew and Misty would have to be the one to go looking for them since Angela and Jim worked evening shifts at their jobs. Misty would often hear the boys get in trouble from Jim and Angela when they got off the night shift and returned home.

During her high school years, Misty began many new friendships and relationships that would continue to impact her throughout her life. For example, many of her friends from high school would continue to be involved in her life even after graduation, in one form or another. Misty was an excellent student in high school. She was often on the honor roll and was a role model for younger students. She was involved with choir and orchestra, and was looking forward to a career in law. However, during her last two years in high school, her plans changed.

In 1991, Misty met **David L. Stapleton, Jr. (1974-)**. After living with her grandmother and grandfather sporadically during tensions with Angela, Misty decided to move out and settle down with David. David and Misty were married in January of 1993 and they lived in a house just across the street from Anna on E. 8th St. in Joplin, Missouri. Misty continued to finish her high school degree while she was pregnant with their son, Austin. David often worked night shifts at Schreiber Foods in Carthage, Missouri, to provide for his new family. After frequent arguments and a major incident, David and Misty decided to separate in 1995. David moved out of the house on E. 8th St. and Misty remained there for a short while. During work hours, Austin was left with Anna, his maternal great-grandmother whom lived across the street. Not long after the divorce, Misty and Austin moved to an apartment in Joplin.

At this point in Misty's life, struggling became an everyday occurrence. After becoming mixed in with some bad people, she began to deal and do drugs and frequently drink alcohol. In one of the groups she was in, she met a gentleman by the name of Jason Stark, who moved her and Austin in with him. The arrangement was short lived, as they split up after about a year. Misty then met her next husband, Jeremy Pietrzak. Misty lived with Jeremy off and on while Austin spent much time with Angela,

her mother, and Anna, her grandmother. Drug use continued to be a major part of Misty's life. In 1998, David and Stephanie stepped in legally and started the custody battle for Austin. By 1999, Austin was placed with David and Stephanie due to lifestyle decisions that Misty had made and continued to make for several years to come.

After Austin was placed with his father and stepmother, drugs became Misty's backbone of support. After years of pleading from Angela, Misty moved back in with her at a small two-bedroom house located at 1106 Jackson in Joplin, Missouri. This was the start of a new era in Misty's life, as she tried several times to become sober. Austin would visit her every other weekend and every other holiday, but those visits were often interrupted with time spent with her friends and doing drugs. Often, Austin was left with his grandmother, Angela, who would care for him on his visits.

For years, this cycle went on. When Austin was old enough to start deciding where he wanted to go and with whom he wanted to spend time with, he chose his mom and her "friends." After realizing the kind of people she had made acquaintance with, Austin's visits with his mother became less and less frequent. Instead, he would spend more time with his maternal grandmother and great-grandmother, Angela and Anna. In later years, Misty expressed sorrow and apologies for how she treated her family during this period in her life. However, the alcoholism stopped, but the yearning for drugs became ever stronger. She continued to do drugs despite the ramifications that the drugs had caused.

Up until early 2009, Misty was heavily involved with drugs. But when she met Brad Cooley, she began to give them up. Brad and Misty had crushes on each other in high school, but had not acted on the attraction. In 2009, shortly after the loss of Angela, Misty developed feelings for Brad and him, for her. Although there were rough

patches at the beginning of their relationship, they couple persevered. They settled in a small one-bedroom home on Annie Baxter in Joplin, Missouri, which was not far from St. John's Regional Medical Center.

Brad and Misty were displaced after the May 2011 Joplin tornado destroyed their home. For a short while, Misty and Brad stayed with Anna, Misty's grandmother, at her home on E. 8th street in Joplin. After two months of displacement, Misty found a two-bedroom home at 1902 Missouri Ave. in Joplin, for the couple to settle in. In September of 2011, Misty and Brad packed up their cats and dogs thanks Anna for her hospitality and moved to their home on Missouri Ave. In early 2012, Misty and Brad began church hunting in the Joplin, Missouri area. After almost a year of searching, they found their church home at Faith Tabernacle on Schifferdecker Ave. in Joplin. For the next few years, Misty and Brad made new friends and memories at the church. After several years in their home on Missouri Ave., Brad passed away in the home in July of 2017. Misty continues to live there and attend Faith Tabernacle.

David L. Stapleton, Jr. (1974-) was born to **Carol A. Chamberlin Cox Wilson Stapleton (1947-2015)** and **David L. Stapleton, Sr. (1950-)** on 9 April 1974 in Joplin, Missouri. His early childhood was spent growing up in Webb City, Missouri, where most of his father's family lived. David grew up with an older brother, Paul Cox, who passed away in 2004. Paul was the typical older brother who was constantly bothered by his younger brother. Nonetheless, David still cared for Paul very much up until Paul's tragic death in 2004. Carol and David moved their children several times around the Webb City, Missouri, area, but it was never more than a few blocks each time. Some of David Jr.'s earliest memories are of visiting his aunts and uncles in Webb City, and attending Cardinal Elementary school. In middle school, the Stapleton

family made a move to Joplin, Missouri, to a trailer park on Fountain Road, not far from Babe's Drive-In, a local favorite restaurant. David remembers making friends with a couple of children his age and older who lived in the trailer park where he spent the rest of his time living with his parents. The friends would often play outside, riding bikes, etc. They would also make it a point to play board games such as Dungeons and Dragons during their free time.

As David Jr. grew up, he had a falling out with his parents during his high school years. He moved out and went to live with a close friend and his parents in a home off 32nd Street in Joplin, Missouri. Bruce and Loretta Dobbs and their son Britt took David in during this falling out with his parents. David would go on to spend much of his time in high school with the Dobbs family. Britt and David were inseparable and participated in many of the same extra-curricular activities together. Some of David Jr.'s most fond memories in high school included his time with the high school football team. For a short while, both Britt and David played semi-professional football for the Joplin Jaguars after graduation.

After graduation in 1993, David looked forward to raising his son, Austin. He continued to play semi-pro football when he could, and he began working full time at Schreiber Foods in Carthage, Missouri, where his father was working, too. For the next several years, David worked grueling night shifts and was often exhausted when he saw Austin and Misty. As his marriage to Misty began to fall apart, Misty and David agreed to separate in 1995. At this time, David moved to his friend Britt's home in Saginaw, Missouri, while he continued to work for Schreiber Foods. On weekends, David would often bring Austin to Britt's house for visits. It was at this time David became

reacquainted with an old high school friend, Stephanie Smith, whom he would later marry in 1999.

Shortly after their marriage in 1999, David and Stephanie sought custody of Austin. They had circumstantial and hard evidence that suggested that Misty's lifestyle was not conducive to raising a child, so they acted on it in 1998. After almost a year and a half of court cases, David and Stephanie were granted custody of Austin in 1999. When Austin came to live with David and Stephanie, David tried to get on a day shift at Schreiber foods, but was not granted this request. For several years, David worked the night shift while Stephanie cared for Austin before and after school. David, Stephanie, and Austin lived in a three-bedroom trailer at 6497 W. Emerald Road in Joplin, Jasper county, Missouri, for several years. In the early 2000s, David and Stephanie were able to build a home on the property, so the family remained at the same address, and moved a total of fifteen feet from their previous residence. A few years after moving to the new house, David sought employment elsewhere. He found a position at Freeman Health Essentials, on 32nd Street in Joplin, Newton county, Missouri, as an oxygen delivery driver. He stayed in this position until a Wheel Chair Technician position opened, which granted him the Monday through Friday schedule he had been on the hunt for. David continued to work his way up through the company and currently serves as a Driver Dispatcher and Compliance Officer for Health Essentials.

Throughout these years, David and Stephanie both worked hard to provide the best possible opportunities for their son, Austin. They were able to provide not only a strong family, shelter and food on the table, but they also gave Austin opportunities to travel to develop his music career throughout middle school and high school. One of David's favorite memories is of taking Austin to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, for the

American Choral Director's Association National Honor Choir. He often laughs as he remembers the adventure with his mother-in-law, Austin, Stephanie, and Judy, Stephanie's aunt and Jane's sister.

David and Stephanie remain at the residence at 6497 W. Emerald Road. They continue to work and help Stephanie's parents with livestock and small building projects. They enjoy spending time with their son Austin, and their daughter-in-law, Sylvia. Bonfires and get-togethers were a regular part of their family social life and they continue to build on new family traditions, such as Christmas Eve tacos with their loved ones.

GENERATION THREE

A1a1. Angela D. Yeakey McKenzie Webb (1956-2009)

A1a2. Jerry L. McKenzie (1958-2014)

A1b1. Carol A. Chamberlin Cox Wilson Stapleton (1947-2015)

A1b2. David L. Stapleton, Sr. (1950-)

Angela D. Yeakey McKenzie Webb (1956-2009) and her twin sister, Annita Yeakey, were born to **Anna M. Reed Yeakey Selves (1927-2014)** and **Robert L. Yeakey (1923-1974)**, on 9 July 1956 in Joplin, Jasper county, Missouri. Angela and her twin grew up doing everything together. Angela did not know her father very well, though. He left the girls at a very young age.

Angela grew up during an interesting time in American history. She experienced the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Vietnam War, Disco, and a plethora of other social movements such as Civil Rights and the rationing of gasoline. Throughout her life, she loved to be involved in different activities. During her high school years, she ran for the track team and participated in other sports.

At the time, the public high school in Joplin was called Parkwood Senior High. This is where she would meet her future husband, **Jerry L. McKenzie (1958-2014)**. After discovering she was pregnant with Misty, Jerry and Angela settled down together and started planning for the birth of their baby girl in 1974. Jerry began to work for a local mechanic in the Joplin, Missouri, area and Angela started studying accounting materials at Vatterot College in Joplin.

It didn't take long for Angela and Jerry to realize that the marriage was not going to last. Each had different priorities, so the couple decided to split before Misty was

born. Angela lived with her mother, Anna, for a short time, but ended up finding a second job to help support her daughter.

Angela then met her second husband, Jim Webb. Jim would be the father to her two boys, Brian and Jason. At this point in her life, Angela worked only part-time, so she could care for the children. As the kids grew up and graduated high school, the marriage began to crumble. Jim and Angela divorced and went their separate ways, although they remained friends. Angela then began a new life with her children away from the home, for a short while.

Angela began working at the Greenbriar nursing home, in Joplin, Missouri, as an Environmental Specialist. This is where she met her boyfriend, Vernie Lincoln. The two would never marry, but they were soulmates. They ended up settling in an apartment located at 918 Jackson in Joplin, Jasper county, Missouri, in the late 1980s or early 1990s. After years of hard work and dedication, they found a forever home at 1106 Jackson, just a few blocks from their apartment. It was in this house that Angela continued to care for her children and often, her grandson, Austin.

Eventually, Vernie and Angela had a falling out. One day, Angela returned home from work to find a letter from Vernie that stated he had left and had no intentions of coming back. With this news, Angela decided to change her life. She left her job at the Greenbriar, and found employment at Clean Uniform in Webb City, Missouri, just across from the Joplin Regional Airport. Angela also decided to move from her home on Jackson street and found a house at 206 N. Picher in Joplin, Missouri, located not far from North Middle School.

Several years after Vernie left Angela, she discovered that she had cancer of the lungs. After complications with her thyroid, she developed issues breathing, and thus

the lung cancer diagnosis was given. Angela had smoked for decades, oftentimes up to two packs of cigarettes a day. With the cancer diagnosis, she quit smoking, but the harm was already done. On 20 September 2009, Angela lost her battle with cancer at her home, surrounded by friends and family.

Not much is known about **Jerry L. McKenzie (1958-2014)**. He was born in Galena, Kansas, sometime in 1958. This is a part of the family that I lost contact with at an early age. Jerry married Angela at some point during their high school years. I believe Jerry was a sophomore and Angela was a senior at the time of their marriage. After a short marriage, Jerry left Angela and became an alcoholic. A lifetime of drinking and lifestyle decisions led to Jerry's death in 2014. He passed away at Freeman Hospital in Joplin, Newton county, Missouri, in 2014.

Carol A. Chamberlin Cox Wilson Stapleton (1947-2015) was born to **Rosemary Demery Chamberlin Hester (1928-2003)** and **Joseph Chamberlin (unknown)** on 12 July 1947, in Camden, New Jersey. Carol spent her childhood on the coasts of the US. She was born in Camden, New Jersey, but grew up in California. She met lifetime friends Rick and Sally Skaggs while she lived in California with her mother and father.

When she made her way to the Midwest, Carol settled in the Joplin area to be close to her mother's family, the Demerys. Once in the Joplin area, she met and married Gary Cox, with whom she had a son, Paul. Not much is known of her first marriage other than it did not last very long. After another failed marriage, to a gentleman with the last name Wilson, Carol met **David L. Stapleton, Sr. (1950-)** in Webb City, Missouri.

Her marriage to David yielded one son, David Jr. The couple moved several times within the Webb City, Missouri, area as they raised both Paul and David, but the

eventually settled in a house on W. 2nd Street in Joplin, Missouri. Carol worked as a bartender at the local VFW for several years before becoming disabled due to health complications such as emphysema. During her disabled years, she spent as much time with her family as she could. She would often cook huge dinners and invite her son David and his family, Stephanie and Austin over to enjoy it. Other times, the whole family would get together to play a playing card/bingo-like game called Po-Ke-No.

As her health deteriorated, Carol and her grandson Austin developed a close bond. When he was in high school and college, he would spend every second possible with her. When she passed in 2015, Austin took the death as a sign that all good things must come to end. Carol had always told Austin that she believed in him, no matter what. Carol passed in her sleep at their home at 1005 Roosevelt in Joplin, Missouri. Speculation exists that she turned over in her sleep and suffocated due to lack of oxygen and weak lungs after a lifetime of smoking.

David L. Stapleton, Sr. (1950-) was born to **Viola M. Ryan Stapleton (1919-1990)** and **James Richard Stapleton (1920-1961)** in Joplin, Missouri, on 19 June 1950. Like his father and son, David Sr. grew up primarily in Webb City, Missouri, and Carterville, Missouri. Some of David's memories from his childhood are not so great, however. David experienced the loss of a brother when he drowned in a strip pit just behind the Praying Hands in Webb City. His brother was only fourteen when he passed. In addition, David spent much of his childhood playing outdoors. In 1961, when David was only eleven years old, his father passed away.

After high school, David spent some time in the military. David was stationed in South Korea for a short time before being discharged from service. David often talked of his time in the military and how it helped him. He had some funny stories to share! For

example, when he was smoking outside of the guard shack he was posted at, he flipped his cigarette butt onto the ground and the guard shack caught fire. After military service, David settled back around the Joplin and Webb City, Missouri area. It was here that he met Carol, his future wife and mother of his child, David Jr.

With the birth of their son, David Jr., David Sr. began to work at Schreiber Foods in Carthage, Missouri. Sr. now had a stepson and biological son to care for. David Sr. worked here for the next forty years before retiring. After retirement, David Sr. enjoyed more time with his wife, Carol, and his family. Western movies with Papa became a regular item for Austin. David Sr. and Austin, his grandson, also shared a love for Elvis and Johnny Cash. After the death of Carol, his wife, David Sr. remained in the home they shared on Roosevelt street in Joplin, Missouri.

GENERATION FOUR

A1a1a. Anna M. Reed Yeakey Selves (1927-2014)

A1a1b. Robert L. Yeakey (1923-1974)

A1a2a. unknown (unknown)

A1a2b. unknown (unknown)

A1b1a. Rosemary Demery Chamberlin Hester (1928-2003)

A1b1b. Joseph Chamberlin (unknown)

A1b2a. Viola M. Ryan Stapleton (1919-1990)

A1b2b. James R. Stapleton (1920-1961)

Anna M. Reed Yeakey Selves (1927-2014) was born to **Angeline Smith Reed (1895-1964)** and **Albert Reed (unknown)** on 3 November 1927. Albert left the family shortly after Anna was born. No reason was given, he just left one day. Anna went to live at the Joplin Children's Home as an infant until she was six years of age, and was able to be in school while her mother worked tirelessly. Anna's mother, Angeline, would take payment to the Children's home every week for Anna's room and board, so that the Home wouldn't give Anna away for adoption. At this time, Anna's brother and sisters had all moved away from the home and started families of their own, so this left Angeline to care for Anna herself. Finding work to provide for a family proved difficult during the years leading to the Great Depression, so the orphanage was a better option for Angeline and Anna both. Anna continued her schooling when she went to live her mother again. After school, she would help her mother iron and wash clothes for a living. After Anna finished schooling, she became a stay-at-home-mother. At age fifteen, Anna began growing her family with Robert.

After several years of raising children on her own, Anna met Richard Selves, who was her sweetheart up until his death in 1991. Anna continued to help raise grandchildren

and great-grandchildren throughout her life in the home that Richard Selves had built for her on E. 8th Street in Joplin, Missouri. Anna attended Central City Christian Church on W. 7th Street in Joplin, Missouri, as well. She often took her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to church with her.

In Figure 8.1, "Current Religious Preferences of American Adults Age Twenty-Five to Seventy-Four," Fischer and Hout reveal the statistics that show how a wide range of Americans consider themselves religiously involved. Both religious diversity and identification were discussed in a study that was conducted in the years before and after 2000.

Fifty-six percent of those polled considered themselves Protestant, touting denominations such as the Southern Baptist Convention and the Episcopal Church. Roughly a quarter of the individuals polled stated that they were Catholic, and fourteen percent of those polled expressed "no religion." With these dominant groups, a handful of religious denominations were left to rake in one to three percent each for groups such as Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus.

Anna Mae Smith grew up in an orphanage in Joplin, Missouri during the Depression. Anna learned to become comfortable with church-going from a very young and impressionable age. By the time she reached adulthood, she considered herself to be of the Protestant denomination, as she was associated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Throughout her life, Anna kept her family involved in church. She oftentimes would force her own kids to participate in church programs such as Christmas pageants and Easter cantatas. Anna attributed their success and determination later in life to participation in these church events. As her family grew, Anna started taking her

grandchildren, and eventually her great-grandchildren to church with her. Because of this, many of her descendants became members of other Protestant denominations mentioned in Figure 8.1. Anna was always proud of her family when they shared bible stories and/or testimonies at their churches or when they would visit their home church where their love for higher power began².

After dementia and Alzheimer's disease set in, Anna became quite ill and passed away in a nursing facility in Webb City, Missouri, called Webb City Health and Rehab.

Robert L. Yeakey (1923-1974) was born to **Walter Scott Yeakey (1893-1950)** and **Flora D. Morris Yeakey (1895-1964)** Joplin, Missouri, on 12 April 1923. Robert was one of many children born to Flora and Walter. After marrying Anna, and welcoming several children to the world, Robert left Anna and the children and became an alcoholic after serving in the military during World War II. After the war Robert worked as a stone mason for local construction projects. It is believed that Robert passed away while working at a job in Joplin, Missouri, while he was intoxicated.

Rosemary Demery Chamberlin Hester (1928-2003) was born to **Ina M. Larue (1902-1987)** and **Walter L. Demery (1898-1973)**. Rosemary had two children with Joseph Chamberlin: Carol and John. In her later years, Rosemary lived in an assisted living apartment complex. Her family frequently visited her at this complex off 2nd street in Joplin, Missouri. Large Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings occurred in the basement level and Rosemary's immediate and extended family would

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), 189.

come to celebrate the holidays with her, as she had difficulty getting around in her later years. Rosemary passed in 2003.

Joseph Chamberlin married and had two children with Rosemary. This is the extent of information I have on Joseph Chamberlin, who would have been my great-grandfather.

Viola M. Ryan Stapleton (1919-1990) was born to **Ethel E. Yeager Ryan (1893-1957)** and **Homer L. Ryan** at Carterville, Jasper county, Missouri, in 1919.

James R. Stapleton (1920-1961) was born to **Jesse R. Stapleton (1895-1963)** and **Mattie L. Hudson Stapleton (1892-1968)** on 28 January 1920. He married Viola Ryan on 26 August 1940 in Webb City, Missouri.

GENERATION FIVE

A1a1a1. Angeline Smith Reed (1895-1964)

A1a1a2. Albert Reed (unknown)

A1a1b1. Flora D. Morris Yeakey (1895-1964)

A1a1b2. Walter Scott Yeakey (1893-1950)

A1a2a1. unknown (unknown)

A1a2a2. unknown (unknown)

A1a2b1. Unknown (unknown)

A1a2b2. Unknown (unknown)

A1b1a1. Ina M. Larue Demery (1902-1987)

A1b1a2. Walter L. Demery (1898-1973)

A1b1b1. Unknown (unknown)

A1b1b2. Unknown (unknown)

A1b2a1. Ethel E. Yeager Ryan (1893-1957)

A1b2a2. Homer L. Ryan (1885-1937)

A1b2b1. Mattie L. Hudson Stapleton (1892-1968)

A1b2b2. Jesse R. Stapleton (1895-1963)

Austin's maternal family settled in the southwest Missouri area during the mid-1800s and early 1900s. This was the height and build-up to women's suffrage, which was covered by area media at the time. Austin's great-great-grandmother, **Angeline Smith Reed (1895-1964)**, would have been in her late teens or early twenties when suffrage was being ratified in Missouri. Perhaps she would have seen this article or similar articles in area newspapers such as the Joplin Globe, as well. The Monett Times reported news from southwest Missouri and other parts of the state and country, as well³.

³The Monett times. (Monett, Mo.), 04 July 1919. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. Accessed 07 September 2017.

Unfortunately, I was unable to come across any more social history information for this generation for various reasons. I am continuing genealogical research and look forward to adding stories, legends, and documented individuals/events as I compile more information from various sources.