The Family History of Lori Jeanne McCorkle Clouse

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List of Direct Line Family Members

Generation One

A1. Lori Jeanne McCorkle Clouse (1963- )
A2. David Lee Clouse (1963- )

Generation Two

A1a. Linda Joanne Kirk McCorkle (1941- )
A1b. Gary Eugene McCorkle (1942- )

Generation Three


A1b2. Earnie Eugene McCorkle (1912-1991)

Generation Four

A1a1b. Clarence Benedict Hohler Sr. (1894-1978)

A1a2a. Dana Sarah Brown Kirk (1897-1979)
A1a2b. George “Sandy” Franklin Kirk (1890-1977)

A1b1a. Barcina Henson Brock (1879-1967)
A1b1b. William Edward Brock (1875-1941)

GENERATION ONE

Lori Jeanne McCorkle Clouse (1963- ) was born at St John’s Hospital in Joplin, Jasper, Missouri, in 1963 to Linda Joanne Kirk McCorkle (1941- ) and Gary Eugene McCorkle (1942- ). St. John’s Hospital is now known as Mercy Medical Center, which was rebuilt at a new location after the devastating tornado strike that occurred on May 22, 2011. Lori’s father was not allowed in the delivery room and her mother was put to sleep prior to the delivery so neither have specific memories of the birth of their first child.¹ Lori’s middle name was after her mother’s twin sister, Lorna Jeanne Kirk Buckmaster (1941- ). It was common in the family to be named after family members.

Lori’s mother was able to stay at home so she was never placed with a babysitter or any type of preschool or daycare. At the age of three she was joined by a baby brother, Daymon Wayne McCorkle (1966- ), and a baby sister, Paula Jo McCorkle Parker (1970- ), when Lori was a seven year old girl. Paula became a living baby doll for Lori. During the early 1960s, play time was full of imagination and Lori had a lot of imagination. The three siblings spent a great deal of time playing outside and being very active.

Lori grew up in Riverton, Cherokee, Kansas, located within what is known as the “four state area”, where Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma meet. Riverton is an unincorporated community in Cherokee, Kansas, located on former U.S. Route 66. Riverton, sitting between Galena and Baxter Springs, are the only towns in Kansas along the former U.S. Route 66.² When U.S. Route 66 was opened in this area, commerce took off. The development of downtown areas increased. Economically, there could be a correlation between what U.S. Route 66 and the zinc and ore mines did for the communities in southeast Kansas. In 1919, the
Baxter Springs News reported that zinc was responsible for the prosperity and continued growth of the city of Baxter Springs, Cherokee, Kansas with a large part of the population of the city dependent upon the industry for their incomes. Tourism generated income and prosperity for the three Kansas towns along U.S. Route 66 as well. This area has been fortunate in having these opportunities in the past. The renewed interest in riding Route 66 has given this area a bit of a boost economically from tourist.

Lori remembers riding her bicycle down to the “corner”, which was located at the one and only intersection with a flashing light in Riverton, Cherokee, Kansas, to the APCO gas station. It was there that she was able to buy penny candy. Penny candy was purchased for less than one cent a piece, so she could get a small bag full of a variety of candy. Her mother would give her a quarter and she thought it was the biggest prize. On that same corner across the street there sat a DX gas station as well. Both of these stations were “full service” stations; where the attendants would come meet you while sitting in the car, pump the amount of gas requested, check the engine oil, and wash the windshield. This was considered good business and part of everyday life.

This area was settled by Quakers in the 1870s and was named Varck. After the Frisco Railroad came, the post office was established and the name of the town changed to Riverton. The name was based on the fact that it was located next to Spring River. The Quakers built a church where years later Lori was invited to go to vacation Bible School. The old church building stood for many years, but as time went on the building began to deteriorate and was replaced with a new building where Lori and her husband, David Lee Clouse (1963- ), attend services to this day.
The McCorkle’s were very involved in church and as a child Lori went to Sunday school, attended Sunday church services, vacation Bible School, and church camps. Every Sunday was reserved for worship and family. Once the Sunday church services were completed the McCorkle’s would visit either the maternal grandparents or paternal grandparents depending on whose turn it was that Sunday. This was a day when extended family members gathered for Sunday dinner, play, and watching sports.

Once the Quaker settlers arrived they constructed cabins for homes and a log meeting house for church and school. The Cherokee County School District #5 was formed in the community and by 1880 a permanent school was constructed. The land where the original school was established houses the new building that was erected beginning in the fall of 1980, along with an intensive remodel program through the elementary building.

Lori’s schooling began with kindergarten in 1968 and ended with her high school graduation in 1981 from the Unified School District of Riverton #404 in Riverton, Cherokee County, Kansas; the same school where her maternal grandparents, mother, maternal aunt, maternal uncle, siblings, and cousins attended and graduated. In fact she attended high school in the same building that her grandparents, mother, uncle, and aunt went to elementary school.

At barely five years old, Lori set off for kindergarten. It was a very traumatic time in her life. She was a very shy girl and scared to death to be away from her mother. She remembers the first day of school, beginning with the school bus ride. It was mortifying because her house was located on the opposite side of the road from the direction the bus was headed and she had to cross the highway to get on the bus. The bus driver was so nice and concerned about her well-being as she crossed the highway that he volunteered an older young man to come across and walk her to the other side of the road, so she could get on the bus. In doing so, he held her hand
as he walked her from one side to the other where the bus waited. When she was in the isle of the bus a few the other kids teased her about holding hands with the older boy. That was the first of many tears that fell on that first day of her school career.

As a first grader, Lori was still too shy for comfort. While waiting on the school bus to pick her up in the mornings, Lori would make herself sick which would make her almost late getting to the bus, running down her driveway as fast as her legs would carry her. Riding the bus was so traumatic that she rode the bus all the way back to the bus barn instead of letting the driver know that he forgot to stop at her house. She was the first one off the bus in the afternoon. Her mother called her grandmother to let her know Lori did not get off the bus. Sure enough, as the bus passed Lori’s grandmother’s home she could see her little black head bobbing along.

Once Lori got to school in the mornings, the tears would begin to fall. Her teacher was an older, grandmother type of woman. Lori remembers her teacher being very kind and sympathetic, to the point of making her a place to sit at the front of the room beside the teacher’s desk, as well as not making Lori attend music class, because Lori was afraid of the music teacher. It was during this time that she decided boys were just simply mean. The memory of a classmate teasing her so much about being a “cry baby” during lunch that she got sick in the lunch line, causes embarrassment to this day, but makes for a very funny story. Her crying behavior continued until Lori started the second grade, when her teacher would not allow the crying behavior to persist.

Growing up in the small southeast Kansas community of Riverton, Cherokee, Kansas, Lori’s family was very involved in the school setting. Her mother became a room mother from the time Lori entered elementary school to the end of her sister’s elementary career. Involving herself in the planning and execution of many events and activities that the school offered, such
as class parties, supplying items for classroom stores, school carnivals, and dances. From the
time Lori and her siblings were old enough, they each were involved in a variety of sports. Lori
played softball, basketball and volleyball from the age of ten until she was seventeen and a
senior in high school. Her brother played baseball and basketball from an early age and beyond
high school for a period of time, while, Paula, her sister played softball and volleyball throughout
her educational career. Being so involved with different activities, Lori’s family formed
relationships with other families within the school’s social network. Taking advantage of the
social option offered by the school’s activities Lori’s family closely followed the theme of
groups as discussed by Fischer.  

Living in the rural area of Riverton, Lori resided only in two houses. When she was born
her parents rented a home one-half mile north of the intersection. Her father borrowed enough
money from his parents to purchase two acres of land located next to the house they were renting
and bid on a building slated to be removed from property of the Jayhawk Ordnance Works,
where he worked alongside her maternal grandfather Wade Franklin Kirk (1916-1992). He
won the bid on the building and began tearing it down and salvaging the materials to build their
home. Construction of that home was completed in 1965. Lori lived in the newly built home
from the age of two until she was twenty years old.

The increase of women in the paid workforce has been the most significant change in the
economy in the past century. Figure 5.3 “Labor Force Participation Rate of Women Age Twenty
to Sixty-Four, by Year and Cohort, 1910 to 2000,” the data collected from consecutive census’
was used to plot the employment history of different cohorts of women. This data shows that as
the years progressed more women were likely to continue working after having children.
Work and family were an integral part of Lori’s family. Her grandmother, Mae Lavon Hohler Kirk (1916-1988), was a strong woman that decided to participate in the workforce in the late 1950s after her children were older. She was not the typical mother of her time, in that she wanted to increase her independence by making her own money. However, the story was different for Lori’s mother. In the early 1960s, she had a job at the age of twenty, for a very short time before making the choice to leave the workforce to get married and start a family. Linda lacked the confidence to return to the workforce but especially felt her place was being a stay-at-home mother. Lori had her first paid job, mowing yards, at the age of twelve, in 1975. She has held at least a part-time position in the years since. Through the years when her children were young, coming to grips with guilt over the choice to not be a stay-at-home mother seemed overwhelming. It was during a guilt-ridden time that she was given the opportunity to work from home, which ended up being the best of both worlds and seemed to work great for her family.6

Living in a rural area it is important to have access to goods and different services necessary to maintain life. Lori’s community of Riverton, Cherokee, Kansas, is located along the state lines of Oklahoma and Missouri. This means that her family has opportunity to shop at larger cities in either one of these states. Traveling across state lines in this area is nothing and done on such a regular basis that it is not a big deal at all, but simply a daily occurrence and way of life. The largest regional area for Lori’s family to reach is Joplin, Jasper, Missouri. This area is where the family sought medical care, shopping, and a lot of their social activities.

Lori remembers the building of the Northpark Mall and how drastically the purchase of consumer goods was affected. The mall is a super-regional mall located in Joplin, Missouri. It opened in 1972 featuring 60 stores, restaurants, and other services. The mall has changed over
the years but is still the largest mall in the region and serves a trade area of nearly 500,000 people that crosses three state lines.\(^7\) The building of the mall, economically, falls in line with Fischer’s theme of goods. It was at this time that shopping for clothing and entertainment items became more popular due to the fact that these items were readily available. One-stop-shopping in the area was never seen before. Easier access to goods made shopping a social activity as opposed to being a necessity. Attitudes were changed and young adults began to spend time at the mall as a way to socialize with each other outside of school, which in turn began the evolution of the mind regarding the accumulation of “stuff” and having what someone else has.\(^8\)

Lori was fortunate that she was always surrounded by family. Her Aunt Lorna’s family lived less than a mile from her home and they were together most of the time. They would have summer cook-outs, where they would play volleyball in the pit that was built by Lori’s father. Every summer Lori’s mother would buy a swimming pool for them to swim. Lori can remember on summer in particular when her father bought the siblings a mini bike (motorcycle) and they rode the wheels off the thing. There was one time that all three of the children were on the mini bike together (which they were specifically told not to do) and Daymon was driving, Paula was in the middle and Lori on the back. When they rode down a small ditch Lori was thrown off the back. She landed on her arm wrong and it broke. The siblings were scared to death to tell their mother what had happened. They sat outside for a while trying to piece together a lie to tell their mother about how Lori’s arm got broken. They decided it would be best to say they were playing tag and Lori tripped over a small tree stump that was located in the front yard and that was how she fell on her arm wrong. That story held up for about twenty years when finally the truth came out. Their mother could not believe they had told her that lie and she never thought it was anything less than the truth for all those years.\(^9\)
When Lori’s father had time off from work for an extended period of time, the family would pack up the van, camper, and boat heading to Stockton Lake, Stockton, Cedar, Missouri. It was one of these trips that Lori remembers her mother getting so aggravated at her father. Everyone knew that her mother was afraid of the water because she did not feel she could swim well enough to venture to where the water was over her head. Apparently, Lori’s father thought it would be funny to throw her into the lake and that the water was shallow enough that she would be okay, however he was very wrong. She just about blew her top when she came up out of the water and could not get her footing. Once she was able to get to shore she took off running after Gary and smacked him.

In the winter there was sledding behind the tractor and going to the pond to ice skate where there would be a bonfire for roasting marshmallows while drinking hot cocoa. Even though they would sometimes freeze their toes off it was the best time. When the weather was too cold and school was out for a snow day, the siblings would use their imagination to find ways to play the day away. One blizzard like day, Lori’s mother had given her the box that had been used to protect one of her kitchen appliances that had been delivered to the house earlier. Lori took a box cut it up where it would fit into a bedroom door way. It was a bank teller station. They played with that piece of cardboard for weeks until it finally fell apart and had to be burned.

Lori married David Lee Clouse (1963- ) on May 26, 1984. Just a few days after their wedding they moved to Shawnee, Pottawatomi, Oklahoma, in order for David to finish his degree at Oklahoma Baptist University. Lori had completed a Dental Assistant certificate program a Missouri Southern State College (now known as Missouri Southern State University) in May, 1982. She used her training and began working for an orthodontist until David
graduated. Upon David’s graduation the couple moved to Springdale, Washington, Arkansas where he had taken a position at Shiloh Christian School teaching middle school History and Bible classes. Lori found a position with an orthodontist in the city. They lived in Springdale for twelve years before moving to Phoenix, Maricopa, Arizona. The reason for the move was for the adventure of moving to a large metropolitan area. David was once again employed by Scottsdale Christian Academy as a Bible instructor. Lori found employment at a Property Management Company in Scottsdale, Maricopa, Arizona. Their family lived there for three years before making their way back to Riverton, Cherokee, Kansas. The reason for the move back “home” was so their children could be closer to grandparents, aunts and uncles, and cousins. This also allowed the couple to be near their parents as they got older and would need their help. Once again, David began teaching at College Heights Christian School while Lori found a position at Ozark Christian College. The couple has since changed places of employment and Lori has a position as a Staff Accountant with Joplin Schools and David is a guidance counselor at Harber High School in Springdale, Washington, Arkansas.

Lori was the only one of her extended family to move away from the Riverton-Baxter Springs-Galena area. It was a difficult transition the first year of marriage. She was so homesick and felt that she was far removed from what was going on back “home” and missing out on a lot of family events and special occasions. Part of the reason David was working hard to move back to Kansas was for her. He knew that she would be so much happier living around family.

David and Lori are avid motorcycle riders, owning two dual sport bikes and two street bikes. It’s not uncommon to see them load up the dual sport bikes on a trailer and head to Colorado to ride the trails found in the National Forest there. They usually take their tent and camping gear which allows them to stay out in the forest while riding the trails. This type of
outing allows them to see numerous ghost towns, abandoned mining towns, and magnificent landscapes and views.

During the course of their marriage they have traveled to Cancun, Mexico, Washington D.C., New York, Massachusetts, Maine, Wisconsin, Minnesota, California, and many places closer to their home. Lori had traveled more in the first three years of marriage than she did the twenty years living with her parents. Traveling allows them time to spend together while enjoying the beauty that surrounds them. Sometimes part of their traveling would double as visiting family and adventure.

Lori has lived through a few monumental world events in her life. The first memory she has is of Apollo 11 that landed the first two people on the moon. She also has a memory of Patricia Hearst being kidnapped and the scandal that followed her abduction. In 1976, the Bicentennial was a huge celebration. The day Elvis Presley was found dead was newsworthy in 1977. She can remember when the first test tube baby was born in 1978 and the same year saw the Jim Jones’ followers commit mass suicide in Jonestown, Guyana. 1980 saw the election of Ronald Reagan as president and 1981 was the year the first woman was appointed to the Supreme Court. There was the development of plans for the Star Wars missile defense system and the space shuttle Challenger explosion. In 2000 there was the Y2K Scare that fizzled when nothing blew up. The year 2001 was the most traumatic event of Lori’ life; the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon and the crash in Pennsylvania on 11 September 2001, which began the war on terror.

One of the hardest events that influenced Lori’s life was the 2011 tornado of Joplin, Jasper, Missouri. It was a catastrophic EF5-rated multiple-vortex tornado that struck in the late afternoon of Sunday, 22 May 2011. On its path through the southern part of the city it reached a
maximum width of nearly one mile. It intensified in strength and grew larger in size at a very fast rate. Overall the tornado killed 158 people, injured 1,150 others, and caused damages amounting to a total of $2.8 billion. It was the deadliest tornado to strike the United States since the 1947 Glazier-Higgins-Woodward tornados, and the seventh deadliest. It also ranks as the costliest single tornado in U.S. History.\textsuperscript{10}
A1a. Linda Joanne Kirk McCorkle (1941-)  
A1b. Gary Eugene McCorkle (1942-)  

Linda Joanne Kirk was born on 12 September 1941, in Joplin, Jasper, Missouri to Mae Lavon Hohler Kirk (1916-1988) and Wade Franklin Kirk (1916-1992). She had a twin sister, Lorna Jeanne Kirk Buckmaster (1941-) and an older brother, Garry Paul Kirk (1939-).  

As a young girl, Linda grew up alongside her twin and brother, in the little house that sat across from the school grounds in Riverton, Cherokee, Kansas. Because Linda and Lorna were twins they always had a playmate and did not have a lot of friends as children. Where one was the other wasn’t too far behind; always in each other’s back pocket. They slept in the same bed and often times experienced exactly the same dreams.11  

They spent a lot of time together at school and were in the same classes. Linda and Lorna were each other’s best friend. Living in a small community, they were a novelty, very visible and were often talked about. As they moved into high school the girls or “twins” as they were referred to, started to branch out. Linda was more outgoing while Lorna was content to move around in Linda’s shadow. Making friends was not hard for Linda, but Lorna would join in with Linda’s friends as opposed to making her own.  

Some might think that being a twin would be pretty nice and interesting. It wasn’t always so nice for Linda and Lorna, who are identical twins. Being twins for them was difficult because their mother would use them to seek attention for herself. Always being dressed the same, even to the point that Linda, who was just a bit more filled out than Lorna (because she was kind of on the sickly side), had to wear clothes and shoes that were a little snug and uncomfortable for her. She had to endure this because their mom wanted them not only wearing the same clothes but the same sizes as well. As they got older, they still dressed the same,
mainly due to the fact that as long as they were living in their parent’s home they had to do what their mother wanted. The ridiculousness eventually got to the point that they had to get training in the same career path even though they each had very opposite ideas of what that should be. Linda was the one to eventually give up on her dream. She always resented her mother for making her choose a career in which she had no interest or aptitude. Growing up this way caused both to have issues with security. Lorna ended up marrying a man that was horribly abusive and restricted her in every aspect of her life. Linda felt it was her responsibility to take care of her sister, due to their mother repeatedly leading Linda to be the caretaker in their sisterly relationship because she was the stronger personality of the two.

By Lori knowing how her mother and aunt’s relationship played out over the years, it seems that their lives can connect with Fischer’s theme of security. This is seen in the way Lori’s mom always has to be in control of various situations in both her and Lorna’s lives. Lori’s aunt, however, heavily relied on Linda to make her live bearable at times throughout the years. Today and for quite a few years prior, they are and have been in a better place. They have come to terms with situations that happened in their childhood and as adults, they found a way to have a relationship with their mother without the codependency.12

In 1961, Linda ended up going to trade school located in Joplin, Jasper, Missouri, (because that is what Lorna wanted to do) and earned a certificate in office occupations. She worked for an optical store upon completing her schooling. The store was located in the Frisco Building on Main Street in downtown Joplin, Jasper, Missouri. She was not very good at the job and had made many errors in customer orders. It was perplexing to her as to why her boss didn’t fire her, but she soon found out that he was interested in her for different reasons. He was constantly making passes at her and she was so naïve that she didn’t catch on until he became
extremely bold with her when closing the store one evening. This was the incident that when she left the building that night she never returned. This behavior would certainly be a good case for sexual harassment under today’s workplace harassment tolerances.13

Linda and Gary Eugene McCorkle (1942-) were married in June of 1962. They started their family in 1963 and had three children. There were two daughters, Lori Jeanne McCorkle Clouse (1963-), Paula Jo McCorkle Parker (1970-) and one son Daymon Wayne McCorkle (1966-). In 1963, the newlyweds moved into a small one bedroom home in Riverton, Cherokee, Kansas, located by the Riverton Post Office, which was built in 1898 as the Osborn Grocery & Post Office. After their first daughter was born they moved about two miles north to a little two bedroom home. They stayed in that home until they were able to purchase land and build their next home. They moved into this home when Lori was two years old and stayed there until 1991.

Gary Eugene McCorkle (1942-) was born at home in Galena, Cherokee, Kansas. The city of Galena, Kansas, located in the southeast corner of Cherokee County, was established in 1877 after the discovery of lead. Galena is actually a lead ore found in the area, which is where the city’s name came from. During the height of the tri-state mining, the population swelled to over 30,000 people. The mines closed in the 1970s and that’s when the population began to decrease. The 2010 census stated that the population had declined to 3,085.

The Wikipedia page that is dedicated to Galena, speaks of events that Lori grew up hearing about, as her granddad started working in the mines at the age of 13. The Galena Mining and Historical Museum is a tremendous place to visit where the mining life can be seen in a real way. Lori has visited there many times but during her next visit, she will certainly see the exhibits differently.14

He was the third child while being the first son. His parents are Ethel Barcine McCorkle (1911-1981) and Earnie Eugene McCorkle (1912-1991). Being the middle child of
five, he had two siblings older, Patsy Marie McCorkle Messer (1937-2001) and Dixie Lou McCorkle Johnson (1938-2007). He also had two brothers, which were twins, Donnie M. McCorkle (1943- ) and Danny M McCorkle (1943- ). The family lived on Short Street in Galena, Cherokee, Kansas in a three bedroom house.

As a young boy, he remembers sharing the third bedroom with his brothers and his sisters shared the second bedroom. Modernization of homes from the 1930s through the 1950s was a slow process. Running water was fairly rare in the rural areas of southeast Kansas. The home where Gary and his family lived had running water in the kitchen and the washroom, but the house did not have an indoor toilet. The little place had an outhouse in the back yard even though they lived in town. In Figure 6.6 “Households with Key Domestic Goods, by Year,” Fischer and Hout gave a percentage of homes between the years of 1900 to 2000 that were furnished with simple modern fixtures as well as items of convenience and ownership. Some of these fixtures included indoor toilets, telephones, automobiles, computers and even those that owned homes. Gary’s family home would fit into the graph as not having an indoor toilet or telephone during the early years living there. However, the small home underwent a few renovations over the years and during the late 1960s an indoor toilet was integrated into the floor plan. Shortly after the family moved from the home, it was destroyed by a fire.

Gary was one of the most innovative children on his street or maybe even in their city. He remembers a lot of neighborhood kids flocking to their yard to play because of what he could come up with and build for them all to play. For instance, he recalls the day he decided that he and his brothers wanted to build a wooden airplane where they could pretend to be Air Force pilots. The boys found some scrap wood and nails out back in the shed that they had permission to use. They began building the frame and Gary had the idea of building it up in the tree where it
would seem more like really flying. So, that’s what they did. The ladder was placed against the
tree trunk and they began to build the frame around the tree limbs, positioning the wings in the
perfect positions, adding the propeller and all the final touches. It took a couple of days to get it
completely finished. Once it was completed all the neighborhood kids took their turn “flying
around” up in the tree. He also remembers, that airplane being the center of their war games.17

Creating, building, and repairing different things always came easy for Gary. All his life
he’s been the one people call for emergency home repairs, building all and anything from houses
to pergolas. His knowledge and talent is endless. He works with different mediums – wood,
metals, glass – you name it and he can find a way to use it. In his 76 years of life he has built
five homes for family members and remodeled countless extended family and friends homes.

Two of the homes he built were his own. He and Linda borrowed some money from his
parents to bid on a building that needed to be removed from the grounds belonging to Jayhawk
Ordnance Works as well as the purchase of two acres of land to build a new home. He won the
bid on the building and began the process of tearing it apart for the materials so he could begin
construction on their home. Along with his father-in-law, Wade Franklin Kirk (1916-1992),
spent every evening after working an eight to ten hour day building this house. It took less than
a year to complete the construction. Their little family moved into the structure in June of 1966.

It’s funny that years later Lori was spending one of many weekends with her paternal
grandparents Ethel Barcine Brock McCorkle (1911-1981) and Earnie Eugene McCorkle
(1912-1991) when she was looking in a desk for some paper and a pencil for drawing. She came
across five different receipt books rubber banded together. Each one of the receipt books had the
name of their children written on the front cover. Being nosey Lori looked through them one by
one just to see what they were all about. She found that her parents along with her aunts and
uncles had all borrowed varying amounts of money from her grandparents and that her grandmother was keeping a record of when they each made their payments to pay back what was borrowed. Lori’s mother had told her at one point about the time her grandmother came over to ask her why they had not made their payment that month. Linda had to tell her mother-in-law that it simply slipped her mind and she wrote out a check right then and there. She was mortified and worried that Gary would be upset with her for missing that month’s payment to his parents. In the end Gary was understanding because he had not thought of making the payment either. The couple decided that they would make larger payments and the debt was repaid within a short period of time after this little incident.

Gary was a volunteer fireman for the Galena Volunteer Fire Department. The reason that he became a volunteer fireman was somewhat because of his father being the onsite fire truck driver. Gary’s brother, Donnie, served as a fireman as well. He did this from about 1966 to 1970. He placed a radio beside the bed and it would sound an alarm to notify the firemen to report to the firehouse. The alarm was extremely loud and woke the whole household when it went off. There was one particular fire that was instrumental in Gary making the decision to quit the fire department. It was a summer evening when the alarm sounded at the McCorkle home. Gary made the five minute trip to the Galena fire house in response to a fire report. It was a house fire and when the firemen arrived they were advised that two family members were trapped in the home. Gary was the first to volunteer to go into the burning structure to retrieve one of the people remaining in the house. He followed the directions given to locate the young girl. When he found her she was severely burned and did not seem to be alive. He carried her out to the ambulance. He placed her on the gurney and before he could turn to leave he saw that
her skin was beginning to fall off her body. That was the most traumatic fire run he had been on and decided right then that he was done volunteering with the Galena Fire Department.
Lori’s maternal grandmother Mae Lavon Hohler (1916-1988) was born on October 12, 1916 to Bessie Mae Rowland Hohler (1896-1974) and Clarence Benedict Hohler, Sr. (1894-1978). She was born at home in Baxter Springs, Cherokee, Kansas, at the home of her grandparents. She was the oldest of five children. There were three younger brothers, Byrl B Hohler (1918-1977), Gordon D Hohler (1920-2001), Harold W. Hohler (1923-1974), and a younger sister Vera D Hohler (1926-). The family lived Riverton, Cherokee County, Kansas. They had a little acreage where they farmed to provide a majority of the food they ate. Her father worked in the lead and zinc mining arena while her mother worked the farm with help from her children. In figure 5.6 “Occupational Distribution of the Economically Active Population: Persons Age Twenty-Five to Sixty-Four,” of Fisher and Hout’s Century of Difference: How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years, they chart the different types of employment growth and decline. The upper left graph shows the steady decline of farms and farming laborers. This is most likely the very reason that Lavon’s father decided to give up farming on a large scale to earn a living, but working as a skilled manual worker running a drilling rig would see a declining employment rate as seen in the upper right graph. This decline lead Lavon’s father to move the family for work so he could financially support them.

Lavon was able to attend school and graduated from Riverton High School, however, she did not further her education as she met and married Wade Franklin Kirk (1916-1992) in 1937.
Early in their marriage, Lavon worked as a stenographer at one of the lead and zinc mines in Baxter Springs, Cherokee, Kansas. The couple went on to have three children and continued to live in Riverton, Cherokee, Kansas. After having children, Lavon stayed home and was a homemaker and mother. Sewing, crocheting and knitting were her talents. Shopping in stores for clothing that could be made at home was not done very often. She would make all kind of things to wear that saved money, which they desperately needed going from a two income household to a one income household.

Lori remembers one of the times she and her cousin Deborah Sue Dugan Porter (1964- ), were spending the night with their grandparents when her grandmother made Deborah wear a turbine she had crocheted to the store. Deborah was so mortified because the turbine was made out of red, white, and blue yarn with a very wide gold chain holding the whole thing together. Lori was smart enough to bring her own sock cap so she was not given the opportunity to wear a turbine, thank goodness.

Wade Franklin Kirk (1916-1992), Lori’s maternal grandfather was born 08 April 1916 to Dana Sarah Brown Kirk (1897-1979) and George “Sandy” Franklin Kirk (1890-1977). He was the oldest of his six siblings. His family lived in Duneweg, Jasper, Missouri, until 1924. They all moved to Spring Valley, Cherokee, Kansas, where he attended and graduated from the school at Riverton, Cherokee, Kansas.

Living on a farm, he was working at a very young age. All their farming was done with four horses. Their house had no electricity or refrigeration, so lighting was done by kerosene lamps and later gasoline lamps. Heat was produced in the kitchen by a wood range and a round stove in the living room. In the summer he had to help take down and clean the stoves in preparation of storage until they were needed again during the fall and winter months. Because
the wood stove in the kitchen would put off too much heat to use in the summer Wade’s mother would use a five burner EZ Way kerosene stove and oven.

There were cows to milk, a couple of pigs, four horses and many chickens that needed care twice a day. It was his job to make sure the animals had food and water as well as a few other chores. Also, they had crops of wheat, rye, oats, alfalfa hay, corn and potatoes. After haying and grain harvest, the corn was cut and shocked by hand for husking during the fall and winter. Because there was no refrigeration their pork was put in a barrel of salt brine. Sausage, ham, and bacon were hung in the smokehouse for smoking using corn cobs and hickory chips. They also kept butter, cream and other items that needed to be kept cool in a bucket hung in the cistern.

After Wade was married and moved out of his father’s home, he knew that he did not want to be a farmer. So, he began working with automobiles as a mechanic. He did this for a few years until he was hired at Jayhawk Ordnance Works located north of Riverton, Cherokee, Kansas. The plant was built during World War II and was a large ordnance plant producing ammonium nitrate. After the war it was privatized and the world’s largest producer of ammonium nitrate fertilizer. He retired from Jayhawk Fine Chemical Corporation.

Once Wade retired from Jayhawk Fine Chemical Corporation, he set up an automotive repair shop out of his garage at home. Repairing automobiles was a challenge that kept him feeling young. Lori can remember that his garage was covered in tools and grease. It was a two-bay garage with a lift to get the cars off the ground. Manual labor and working hard was never an issue for Wade. He was taught as a young boy to be diligent and honest in all your working relationships, especially when working for yourself.
Wade was also a very big jokester. He would torment his wife, Lavon, to the point of her yelling at him. It did not matter to him if he knew a person well or not he would find something to tease them about. His jokes were infamous and a lot of the men who brought their vehicles in for work or maintenance hung around just to talk with Wade and listen to all the jokes they could stand to hear.

During Lori’s elementary school years, her maternal grandparents lived across the street from Riverton Elementary School. Wade would often take out his 8 mm movie camera and tape her and her cousins running around on the playground while at recess. Lori got into trouble at school for hitting a boy because he was pulling her hair and her punishment was to stand with her nose against the wall at recess. She was so afraid of her grandfather taping her standing there that she kept trying to hide behind the bushes along the wall. Her teacher was having none of that and told her to get out from behind the bush or punishment would carry over to the next recess. Just as Lori thought, her grandfather was indeed filming her standing along the wall and got the whole interaction with her teacher. At the next Sunday family dinner, the 8 mm movie was played for everyone to see. Sometimes his teasing was more of a torment and Lori thought that was one of those times.

Ethel Barcine Brock McCorkle (1911-1981) was born on 9 August 1911 to Barcina Henson Brock (1879-1967) and William Edward Brock (1875-1941). Lori was very fond of her maternal grandmother. If there is such a thing as a favorite grandparent, Ethel was Lori’s. She was her person, the one that Lori wanted to be around all the time. In fact, Lori was at her paternal grandparents’ home almost as much as she was at her own house.

Ethel was the youngest of five siblings. Because she was the youngest that translated into her being the caregiver to her older siblings, especially her two sisters. Lori remembers going
to each one of their homes with her grandmother. Ethel would take two days a week to go pick them up, on different days to take them to any appointments they had and grocery shopping.

Georgia M Brock Brumbaugh (1899-1982) owned her home and lived on Short Street in Galena, Cherokee, Kansas. Georgia did not have any children of her own so she was thrilled that Lori came with her grandmother and she would always have candy and some sort of baked snack for them. It was important to Georgia that they all sat and had tea and cookies before leaving the house. She would set up her coffee table in the living room with the tea pot, tea cups with matching saucers, and a china plate loaded with petite cookies. While the sisters were talking about family things and making a schedule of what needed to be accomplished that day, Lori would look around the living room. Every flat surface was covered with some sort of figurine. They were all glass and each one had a special meaning to Georgia.

Georgia liked take Lori out to the yard after they returned from running all over town. Before Georgia would let Lori out of the house she made sure they both had on a big brimmed hat and some sort of shirt to cover their arms. She would have a hissy fit when Lori had on shorts! It was not proper for a lady to be tanned by the sun. Her skin should be as white as a lily. If a lady had tanned skin, to her it meant that she was outside doing manual labor which was not socially acceptable in her mind. So, when Ethel told Georgia that Lori was playing softball, she sat Lori down and tried to talk her out of playing saying it was improper for a lady.

Esther G. Brock Soutar (1904-1992) was the next oldest sister. She had been married six times over the course of her life. She was never divorced, but all of her husbands died in one way or another. By the time Lori was born Esther had been alone for quite some time. She never did remarry after her last husband pass from a heart attack. Esther lived in a little house on Wall Street in Joplin, Jasper, Missouri, for a number of years. Lori remembers going to her
home and helping her grandmother clean her house. Esther had some sort of eye disease that made her all but blind, she could see shadows and light and dark. As she got older she moved to an assisted living community on 26th Street in Joplin, Jasper, Missouri. When Lori was 20 years old she started working for an ophthalmologist near the community where Esther lived. By this time Lori’s grandmother had passed away and Linda, Lori’s mother had taken over the care of Ethel’s sisters. Because Lori was so close to Esther’s home, she began taking her lunch hour and visiting Esther. She would also clean the apartment once a week to give her mother a break. Sometimes it was easier for Esther to give Lori a grocery list and cash than to try to go get her own groceries. Lori very much enjoyed the time with her great aunt.

Family was so important to Ethel. She would have a huge spread of food on Sunday noon for her whole family. That meant her five children, their spouses, and twelve grandchildren all crammed into her tiny kitchen, ate food and had a wonderful time just being together. The place that Lori’s grandparents lived had two sets of stairs because it was on the second floor of a building in downtown Galena, Cherokee, Kansas. Lori would take an old satin dress and lay it at the top of the stairs sitting on it and sliding down the two flights of stairs. There was also an old wooden elevator that she was allowed to play on every once in a while for a couple of trips up and down.

Ethel was the first of Lori’s grandparents to pass away. It was a struggle for her. Lori was a sophomore in high school when her grandmother was first diagnosed with cancer. How they found it was weird because Ethel’s tonsils were beginning to block her airway due to swollen tissue. The surgeon took her tonsils out and did a biopsy that revealed cancer. So began the chemo treatments. Ethel lost her hair and the treatments made her so very sick the family was wondering if it was worth it because her quality of life for nearly three years was not the
best at times. Finally, in Lori’s senior year of high school the cancer was fighting back with a vengeance. Ethel began to decline rather quickly. She kept telling Lori that she would not die because she wanted to dance at her wedding in a pig trough. Toward the end of her life she kept telling Lori that she was trying to make it to her graduation. Needless to say she did not make it. Ethel Barcine Brock McCorkle died on 5 March 1981, just a couple of months short of Lori’s high school graduation.

Lori’s paternal grandfather was **Earnie Eugene McCorkle (1912-1991)**. He was born to Frances G. “Frankie” Mosbough McCorkle (1894-1966) and Jefferson Earnie McCorkle (1889-1957) on 5 January 1912. He was the oldest sibling of four in the family. He had one brother, **Harvey McCorkle (1919-1997)** and two sisters **Glenna D McCorkle Wheeler (1914-1998)** and **Mary R McCorkle (1925-UKN)**. The family lived in Jasper for a few years then moved to Galena, Cherokee, Kansas. Earnie, Glenna, and Harvey attended school at Cardin, Ottawa, Oklahoma in 1925. Earnie went to work in the mining field shortly after this record was produced, in 1925. Earnie went to work in the zinc mines and by the time he was eighteen years old he was a screener. He never finished school.

Cardin, Ottawa, Oklahoma was originally known as Tar Creek, when it was founded as a mining town in 1913. In 1918, William Oscar Cardin, a member of the Quapaw tribe had his forty acre allotment platted and recorded with the county clerk. The town name changed from Tar Creek to Cardin in 1920. There were 2,640 residents in 1920. The Quapaw Nation of Oklahoma owned the area and leased property to mining companies. Tar Creek Superfund site is the Oklahoma section of three sites that together encompass the Tri-State district, and old lead and zinc mining district with parts of southwest Missouri, southeast Kansas, and northeast
Oklahoma. Lori’s family resided and worked the mines in each state regarded as the Tri-State district.

Earnie was married to Ethel Barcine Brock McCorkle (1911-1981). They had five children, two girls and three boys. They lived in Galena, Cherokee, Kansas, until sometime in the mid-1970s. After Earnie retired from being the onsite fire truck driver for the Galena Fire Department the couple moved to Riverton, Cherokee, Kansas. They purchased a home across from their oldest son Gary Eugene McCorkle (1942-) and his family. Gary remodeled the home before his parents moved. It was an old home that had been a rental for many years prior and needed a lot of care and repair.

Lori’s granddad was a large gruff man. His exterior did not give credence to his insides. He was one of the most kind-hearted men known, but he did not always make it easy. One thing about Earnie, he held people’s feet to the fire. Held them responsible for their actions and did not hesitate to point it out. If he did not like something or someone they most certainly knew it.

Earnie may have made a person work to earn his respect but once that person had his respect they never lost it and he would do just about anything, within legal and moral limits, for them.

Lori was dating a young man that lived about an hour and a half away in El Dorado Springs, Cedar, Missouri. This guy just showed up on her doorstep unannounced after ten o’clock one evening because he had been arguing with his parents. Lori’s father just about hit the roof. He came into her room and made her get up and take him to her grandparents’ home to spend the night. They lived on the other side of the field which was within walking distance. It wasn’t enough that the young man had to get past Lori’s father he now had to face her large, gruff granddad. He was terrified. Lori’s grandmother took the young man in and gave him the bed in the spare room. Lori’s granddad sat her down to discuss the situation with the young man.
He was not all impressed and told her in no uncertain terms that the guy needed to go. Her granddad knew she did not need to deal with all the baggage this guy was carrying around with him. Lori took his advice and told the young man she did not want to see him anymore. Earnie was not a man of many words so when he spoke his family had a tendency to listen very closely.
GENERATION FOUR

A1a1b. Clarence Benedict Hohler Sr. (1894-1978)

A1a2a. Dana Sarah Brown Kirk (1897-1979)
A1a2b. George “Sandy” Franklin Kirk (1890-1977)

A1b1a. Barcina Henson Brock (1879-1967)
A1b1b. William Edward Brock (1875-1941)


Lori’s great grandmother, **Bessie Mae Rowland Hohler (1896-1974)** was born on 6 October 1896 in Baxter Springs, Cherokee, Kansas. Lori remembers that her great grandmother was a very short and stout woman. She always had her little dog by her side. That little dog did not like Lori at all.

Bessie married **Clarence Benedict Hohler Sr. (1894-1978)**. The couple had five children, **Mae Lavon Hohler (1916-1988)**, **Byrl B Hohler (1918-1977)**, **Gordon D Hohler (1920-2001)**, **Harold W. Hohler (1923-1974)**, and **Vera D Hohler (1926- )**. Knitting was Bessie’s talent. She made many afghans for members of her family. Lori has one that she made before she was born.

**Clarence Benedict Hohler Sr. (1894-1978)** was born on 14 October 1894. Farming was what Clarence did before and after he married Bessie. It did not take very long for him to figure out that there was a way to make more money to better support his family. He cut back on farming to cultivate crops and livestock for what the family needed. He then went to work as a laborer in the ore mines. The 1930 census shows him moving on to being a driller on a drill rig for the mining industry. Because of the mining industry in the four state area skilled manual workers increased in the late 1930s to early 1940s with a steady decline in the years of 1950 to
2000. His 1942 Draft Registration card states that although he still worked for Baxter Springs
Drilling Company, Baxter Springs, Cherokee, Kansas, while living in Cave In Rock, Hardin,
Illinois. The family moved to Cave In Rock, Hardin, Illinois, all except Lavon, who had
married earlier and was then living in Baxter Springs, Cherokee, Kansas.

**Dana Sarah Brown Kirk (1897-1979)** is Lori’s maternal great grandmother. Dana was
born on 11 March 1897. She married George “Sandy” Franklin Kirk (1890-1977) and their
family grew to one of eight with six children. The Kirk family and extended family gathered
together every Thanksgiving. That was the holiday that Dana loved. She was the best cook and
could cook for a lot of people without breaking a sweat.

Dana never worked outside the home. She was a farmer’s wife working alongside her
husband while loving and taking care of her family. She did not have much time to spare in the
day but when there were a few free minutes, she would take the time to make the prettiest
 crochet granny squares. She gave the best hugs, as only a great grandmother can.

Lori’s maternal great grandfather, **George “Sandy” Franklin Kirk (1890-1977)** George
was born on 28 March 1890. He lived a long life and died on 31 August 1977. He spent his
life farming. Farming has always been unpredictable in its earnings. In keeping up with what
crops would yield the highest price he was sure to take the Baxter Springs News, which was the
local newspaper. He may have read the report where the United States government was sending
food, namely flour to the destitute people in Bucharest, Romania. This report may have given
him the answer in what crop to plant, which would be wheat. It was a hard life but he did not
complain. He loved being out in the fields plowing and working with the animals.
Barcina Henson Brock (1879-1967) was born on 12 December 1879. She married William Edward Brock (1875-1941) on 18 January 1897 in Newton County, Missouri. They were married until his passing on 26 May 1941. Barcina remained a widow never remarrying.

Lori has a vague memory of going to her great grandmother’s home with her grandmother, Ethel. Her front door had a lock on it that was opened with a skeleton key. Barcina was sitting in a rocking chair with a walker beside it, her hair as white as snow and she had the biggest smile on her face.

William Edward Brock (1875-1941) is Lori’s paternal great grandfather. He was born in the state of Texas in 1875. He married Barcina and had five children together. All their children remained in the Galena, Cherokee, Kansas, area.

In 1910, the Brock’s lived in Newton County, Missouri, and William was a general farmer. The family moved to Galena, Cherokee, Kansas, where William held a number of jobs. He was a laborer for an electric plant, then a carpenter building houses and finally worked as a road construction laborer for the WPA.

Frances G. “Frankie” Mosbough McCorkle (1894-1966) was married to Jefferson Earnie McCorkle (1889-1957) until his death in 1957. The couple had four children. The McCorkle’s lived in Galena, Cherokee, Kansas for about 20 years and then moved to Jasper, Jasper, Missouri. Frankie was a homemaker and mother never taking a job outside the home.

Lori’s great grandfather Jefferson Earnie McCorkle (1889-1957) was born on 28 December 1889 in Jane, McDonald, Missouri. Jeff worked as a miner in the zinc and ore mines found around Galena, Cherokee, Kansas, all his life. Jeff may have heard about the opening of more land for mining ore west of Baxter Springs, Cherokee, Kansas, from a report written in the Baxter Springs News, deciding that he could get work where the mines were looking for labor.
The Picher, Ottawa, Oklahoma, and Cardin, Ottawa, Oklahoma, districts had mills that had been shut down were now reopening as fast as the mining companies could get labor obtained. The couple moved and Jeff worked in the Jasper, Jasper, Missouri, zinc mines. They lived there until their deaths.
United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 34, sheet 5A, line 23, family 97, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 696; FHL microfilm 2,340,431.


