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The Family History of Kourtney L. Yantis

Kourtney Yantis

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The Family History of

Kourtney L. Yantis

20 November 2018

Kourtney Lawren Yantis authored this family history as part of the course requirements for HIST 550/700 Your Family in History offered online in Winter/Fall 2018 and was submitted to the Pittsburg State University **Digital Commons**. Please contact the author directly with any questions or comments: kendicott@gus.pittstate.edu.

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GENERATION ONE

- A1. **Kourtney Lawren Endicott (1997-)**
- A2. **Caden Joseph Yantis (1995-)**

Kourtney Lawren Endicott (1997-) was born in 1997 at Mercy Hospital in Manhattan, Kansas, to **Adam Carl Endicott (1962-)** and **Karen Grace Paddock (1960-)**. Adam and Karen had arranged to become her adoptive parents upon her birth, and they took her home to Pittsburg, Kansas, on July 29th, the day after her birth. Adam and Karen picked the name Kourtney Lawren because Kourtney was the only one on Karen's list of baby names that Adam liked, and Lawren was an abbreviated version of **Lawrence Orval Paddock (1941-)**, Karen's father.

Adam and Karen had been married for eight years before Kourtney's birth and were 35 and 37 respectively when she was born. They had been attempting to have a child for years before they were able to adopt her and had even had a few adoptions fall through. Therefore, they did not want to get their hopes up when they heard about Kourtney's birth parents, even after they had all met and had determined that Adam and Karen would be a good home for the baby. Kourtney was also born a few weeks early, and since Adam and Karen were not expecting her to be born until the middle of August, they did not have any baby items ready at their house. When they brought Kourtney home from the hospital, all they had was the blanket she came home in. Adam famously went on a Walmart shopping spree that night after Kourtney ruined that one blanket during a diaper change. Quickly Karen and Adam baby-proofed their home and began to raise their daughter.

Throughout Kourtney's childhood, she had always wanted a sibling. Adam and Karen had decided when she was born to be very honest with her about her adoption, and eventually Kourtney understood that if she were to have a sibling, they would have to be adopted too, which was not something Adam and Karen wanted to go through again, as they were now both over 40. Still, Kourtney always kept getting a sibling in the back of her mind, so when her parents sat her down for a talk in December 2008, she immediately assumed the conversation was about another baby. However, the talk was really about Adam and Karen's decision to split up, and they finalized their divorce in March 2009. At 11 years old, and with very few signs of marital issues between her parents at all, Kourtney was shocked, and struggled with the news and adapting to her new situation. She remained in her childhood home with Karen and would spend time with Adam at his new house on the weekends and occasionally during the week. While it took some time, Kourtney eventually realized that her parents were much happier with their lives, and their new significant others, and now ten years later everyone can put past differences aside and get along well.

Kourtney attended St. Mary's Colgan Catholic Schools all the way from Kindergarten to High School Graduation. Interestingly enough, Adam and Karen were not practicing Catholics, but they wanted Kourtney to attend Colgan since it was a private school and would offer an excellent education. By first grade, however, Kourtney had figured out that she had never been Baptized, when a project at school required her to find her Baptismal date, and she quickly informed her parents that she wanted to become Catholic. So, in 2004 at age 7, Kourtney was

finally Baptized at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, where she would also receive her 1st Reconciliation, Communion, and Confirmation. Kourtney graduated from St. Mary's Colgan on May 13, 2015, and enrolled in Pittsburg State University, where she began to work towards her degree in History Education that fall. From a young age, Kourtney fell in love with history- memorizing the Presidents at age 5 and forcing her parents to stop in Springfield, Illinois, on a road trip at age 7 so that they could tour Abraham Lincoln's home. So, to no one's surprise, she chose History Education as her major immediately upon enrolling in college and has never changed it. She will graduate with her degree in May 2019 and hopes to begin her teaching career in a high school for the 2019-2020 school year.

Kourtney met **Caden Joseph Yantis (1995-)** at age 12 when she played community softball with his younger sister, **Alexa Paige Yantis (1999-)**. However, the two did not reconnect until 2015, and they dated for almost three years before they were married on December 16, 2017, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Frontenac, Kansas. Since Kourtney remained an only child, she loves having a sister-in-law in Alexa and enjoys spending time with her now incredibly large family.¹

Caden Joseph Yantis (1995-) was born in 1995 to **Joseph Anthony Yantis (1968-)** and **Janna Leigh Overstreet (1971-)** at Mt. Carmel Hospital (now Via Christi) in Pittsburg, Kansas. Caden was Joe and Janna's first child, and his birth was mostly uneventful, although Janna suffered from spinal migraines for the first few weeks after

¹ Personal knowledge of the author, Kourtney L. Yantis.

Caden's birth until a successful surgery alleviated the pain. During these first few weeks, Caden spent a significant amount of time with his maternal grandparents, **Jean Margaret Workman Overstreet (1945-)** and **James Allen Overstreet (1943-2008)**. Joe and Janna chose the name Caden simply because they liked how it sounded, and his middle name, Joseph, came from his father's first name. According to both Joe and Janna, Caden was a difficult baby who had colic and would often cry if he was away from Janna for too long, requiring her to be a stay at home mom for the first year of Caden's life. In contrast, when his sister, **Alexa Paige Yantis (1999-)** was born right before Caden turned 4, she was an incredibly calm and happy baby who would rarely cry.²

Joe and Janna raised Caden and Alexa together until 2005 when they divorced. The two shared custody of their children, and Caden and Alexa split their time evenly between their parents until each of them turned 18. Joe remarried in 2011, and he and Janna remain civil towards each other. Like Caden's in-laws, his parents can spend time together at birthdays, graduations, weddings, and other important family events with minimal to no drama.

Caden and Alexa both attended George Nettles Elementary School, Pittsburg Community Middle School, and Pittsburg High School, all located in their hometown, Pittsburg Kansas. Caden graduated from PHS in 2014, and Alexa graduated in 2017. Caden then attended Pittsburg State University, where he graduated with his Bachelor's in Psychology

² Janna Yantis, Interview with Kourtney Yantis, September 9, 2018.

on May 11, 2018. Alexa is currently studying Elementary Education and will graduate in Spring 2021.

When Caden enrolled at Pitt State, he had declared a Nursing major, after being involved in HOSA throughout high school. However, after his first semester, he changed his major to Undeclared and had a difficult time deciding what he wanted to do. During his second semester at Pitt State, he started a new relationship with a girl who pushed him to take new classes and try to determine his major. Although she did not start college until that Fall, Caden's new girlfriend helped him settle on a Psychology degree, which he instantly enjoyed. A few months later he moved in with that girlfriend, and they were engaged the following summer. Caden and Kourtney had gone ring shopping on their 1-year anniversary, and Caden kept the ring hidden for another five months until he was ready to pop the question.

One night, he took Kourtney out stargazing in the back of his truck, and they danced to their favorite song. When the music stopped, Kourtney turned around to change the song, and Caden quickly got on one knee and told her that he loved her and wanted to spend the rest of his life with her. When he asked "Will you marry me," Kourtney immediately wanted to say yes but instead said, "Are you sure?" Caden was a bit taken aback but assured her he was serious and wanted to marry her, and of course, she agreed. They were engaged for another year and a half so that they would have plenty of time to plan a wedding while still taking college classes and working, but they were finally married on December 16, 2017.

A few months after his wedding, Caden received notice that he had been accepted into Pittsburg State University's graduate program for Psychology, which he began in August 2018. He is currently about halfway through the program and will obtain his M.S. in Psychology in Spring 2019. He will then apply to the E.Ds. program, and if accepted will earn that degree in Spring 2020. Having 3 degrees under his belt before he turns 25 is something Caden strives for in his educational goals and will allow him to help provide for his family after he begins his career as a school psychologist.³

³ Caden Yantis, Interview with Kourtney Yantis, September 16, 2018.

GENERATION TWO

A1a. Karen Grace Paddock (1960-)

A1b. Adam Carl Endicott (1962-)

Karen Grace Paddock (1960-) was born in 1960 in Fort Scott, Bourbon County, Kansas, to **Charlene Kay Cowan (1941-)** and **Lawrence Orval Paddock (1941-)**. Over the next six years, she would gain two siblings, brother, **Kelly Joseph Paddock (1963-)** and sister **Kathy Winona Paddock (1966-)**. Karen and her siblings were very close growing up, and she has a few memories of the events surrounding Kathy's birth in February of 1966 when Karen was not quite six years old. Kathy had been born with a punctured lung and quickly became septic in the hours following her birth. The doctors in Fort Scott were at a loss with what to do, so they sent her up to KU Medical Center in Kansas City. However, the ambulance was broken down, so the family had to make do with the next best option for easy transport- a hearse. This was especially poignant, as the doctors did not expect Kathy to survive for more than a few days. As Larry and Charlene took their newborn up to Kansas City, they relied on their parents to watch over Karen and Kelly. Karen has a vivid memory of staying with her maternal grandparents, **Grace Olive Boileau (1894-1984)** and **Charles Oscar Cowan (1891-1973)** because she remembers sleeping on a pallet in the living room made of quilts, as Grace never let them sleep on the couch and there were no extra beds in the house. As Karen went to sleep that night, she was concerned for her new baby sister, but also just missed her parents and wanted to be at home with them.

Thankfully, and somewhat miraculously, Kathy pulled through, and Charlene was finally able to hold her baby for the first time and take her home, a week after her birth. The Paddock children were all born in Fort Scott but grew up in Mound City, Kansas. The Paddocks had moved to Mound City in 1966 from Stark, Kanas, another small town in Linn County, where Larry had gotten his first teaching job. Mound City did not have a Kindergarten, but it did have an elementary school, which Karen remembers attending for most of her childhood.

Karen's first memories of her school days are not pleasant ones, as she was forced to start first grade with a large gash and bald spot on the back of her head because she had been jumping on the bed the week before and required seven stitches. Aside from minor embarrassments like this, Karen's school days were successful in Mound City, and later at Jayhawk-Linn High school, where she graduated from in 1978. In high school, Karen was very athletic, participating in track and field as well as volleyball, but always wondered what if her high school experience would have been different if her father had not been the shop teacher at Jayhawk-Linn. Regardless, Karen moved to Pittsburg, KS for college in August of 1978 and graduated with an Associate's degree in 1980 in Legal-Secretarial Science. She then took a year off and worked, before going back to finish her Bachelor's in 1985 with a degree in General Studies.

In between getting her degrees, she married **Joel Kevin Berry (1957-)** in Pittsburg, his hometown, in 1983. They were married for four years before their divorce in 1987. In the late 1980s Karen was working as a manager at a CPA firm in Pittsburg, Kansas, and in Spring

1989 was asked to fill in as a secretary for a client. That client was **Adam Carl Endicott (1962-)**. A few months later, Adam called the CPA office and asked her to deliver a few things out to his office, where they talked for two hours before Adam asked for her phone number. They dated for a few months until September 1989. Adam and Karen had previously talked about getting married as they were both in their 30s and had been divorced previously, and on September 20, 1989, they went ring shopping and bought wedding rings. On September 21st, Adam told Karen to take off work the following day, Friday, September 22, 1989, so that they could go down to Miami, OK. They went to Laverne's Wedding Chapel and got married, and had a big wedding reception a few weeks later on October 7, 1989, in Pittsburg.

Karen continued working in the CPA firm, until she began working for Adam's company, Unique Metal Fabrication, in early 1996. She wanted to have a job in more flexible hours in case they were able to have a baby. There was also a job opening at the company that Karen was qualified for, and she wanted to do something new after working in the CPA firm for 13 years, in case she did not get to become a Mom. Her concerns about whether or not she would become a mother were becoming more prevalent each day, as Karen was now in her late 30s, and had experienced two failed adoptions and endured two rounds of fertility treatments in Belgium, as they were not yet commonplace in the United States. So, in 1997 when a mutual friend asked permission to put out a word on their behalf to the local church about their desire to adopt, Adam and Karen accepted. A few months later, they were put into contact with a young couple from Manhattan who wanted

their baby to be adopted by a loving and able family. So, with a mixture of excitement and apprehension, Adam and Karen went to Manhattan to meet the couple in July, as their baby was to be born in August. As they walked into the home of the birth mother, Karen, who had previously not had a preference on gender as long as they had a happy and healthy baby, was immediately struck by how red the birth mother's hair was. She remembers thinking "Oh wow, now I hope it's a girl, and I hope she has that hair!" That wish ended up coming true, as their baby girl, Kourtney Lawren, was born a bit sooner than anticipated, on July 28th, not mid-August, making Adam and Karen first time parents at 35 and 37, respectively. Although Kourtney was bald until she was about two years old, she later granted Karen's other wish, as she eventually grew a full head of red hair.

Motherhood was one of Karen's greatest blessings, but also one of the biggest challenges she faced, as she was suddenly trying to balance maintaining a reasonable work schedule with a newborn. Fortunately, they had plenty of help and were able to hire nannies and babysitters as needed, but Karen also spent as much of her time as she could with Kourtney, especially because Adam was so frequently at work trying to manage the company, or off on business. Unfortunately, this also strained their marriage, and they decided to separate in 2008, with their divorce being finalized on March 26, 2009, after 19 years of marriage.

Karen reinvigorated herself after the divorce, and now tries to live her life to the fullest extent as much as possible, frequently attending concerts with her significant other, **Timothy Russell Harris**

(1957-) and spending time with her daughter and son-in-law, **Caden Joseph Yantis (1995-)**. Karen and Tim regularly travel and relax, while continuing to enjoy their retirement.⁴

Kourtney's father, **Adam Carl Endicott (1962-)** was born in 1962 in Pittsburg, Crawford County, Kansas. He was the oldest child of **Carl Herbert Endicott (1941-1966)** and **Linda Jo Thompson (1945-)**. Their other children are Adam's younger siblings, **Lavon Jo Endicott (1964-)** and **Franklin Gwen Endicott (1966-)**.

As a child, Adam could often be found outside, and frequently sported a cowboy hat as he played with his parents and younger siblings. However, at age 4, Adam's entire life changed when his father, Carl, fell 20 feet from a ladder while hanging steel for a job in Springfield, Missouri, and passed away.⁵ Carl's death undoubtedly changed the course of the Endicott family history, as it created a massive strain on 21-year-old Linda and her three children, one of whom was only nine months old.

Without a father figure, Adam grew up as a bit of a troublemaker, rebelling against teachers, and getting into a bit of trouble with the law as a teenager. Despite a rebellious streak, Adam was very driven to succeed, having grown up in poverty with only his mother's income before her marriage to his stepfather, and he eventually decided he

⁴ Karen Endicott, Interview with Kourtney Yantis, September 11, 2018.

⁵ Find A Grave, database and images

([https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/38734003/carl-herbert-endicott - clipboard](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/38734003/carl-herbert-endicott-clipboard): accessed 1 September 2018), memorial page for Carl Herbert Endicott (18 Jun 1941-6 Dec 1966), Find A Grave Memorial no. 38734003, citing Blackjack Cemetery, Nashville, Barton County, Missouri, USA; Maintained by Nena (contributor 47145054).

wanted to start his own business. Inspired by his father's work, and his Uncle Phil's welding business, Adam started his own company, Unique Metal Fabrication Inc., in Pittsburg, Kansas, in 1983 after graduating from PHS in the class of 1980. The business was a success, and he continues to run the company today. The company was also a conduit for meeting **Karen Grace Paddock (1960-)**, whom he married on September 22, 1989, and remained married to until 2008.

Following his divorce from Karen, Adam reconnecting with his ex-wife, whom he had married a few years before Karen and divorced in 1989, **Marilyn Sue Holland (1962-)**. Adam and Marilyn have been in a long-term relationship for several years, but do not currently have plans to remarry. Adam can still often be found working at Unique Metal, although he has been transitioning towards working in the office more than the shop now that he is in his 50s. When he is not working, he is usually riding motorcycles or taking his RV across the country, something he has been fond of since his daughter Kourtney was young. These various trips were experiences that gave Kourtney many wonderful memories with her father.

GENERATION THREE

A1a1. Charlene Kay Cowan (1941-)

A1a2. Lawrence Orval Paddock (1941-)

A1b1. Linda Jo Thompson (1945-)

A1b2. Carl Herbert Endicott (1941-1966)

Kourtney's maternal grandmother, **Charlene Kay Cowan (1941-)**, was born in Mapleton, Bourbon County, Kansas, in 1941 to **Grace Olive Boileau (1894-1983)** and **Charles Oscar Cowan (1891-1973)**. Charlene, or "Granny Chuck" to her grandchildren, was the youngest of the couple's nine children and was the seventh girl. Charlene was named after her father, Charles, even though he went by his middle name, Oscar, in his daily life. Many of Charlene's older siblings were married and already had children at the time of her birth, but a few of her brothers and sisters remained in the home and grew up with her, including **Opal Maxine Cowan (1934-2016)** and **Billy Joe Cowan (1930-)**.

The Cowan siblings grew up in Mapleton, Kansas, a small town in Bourbon County whose population was only 226 people in 1940⁶, the year before Charlene was born. 10 of these 226 people were Oscar and Grace Cowan and their children. Growing up, Charlene would often play with the children of her older siblings, as her nieces and nephews were closer to her in age than many of her sisters who had moved out and were married by the time she was born.

⁶ Wikipedia. "Mapleton, Kansas." Accessed September 6, 2018.
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mapleton,_Kansas.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mapleton,_Kansas)

Charlene attended Blue Mound High School where she met **Lawrence Orval Paddock (1941-)**. Charlene and Larry began to see each other in high school and married three months after their graduation, on August 2, 1959. The following year their first child, **Karen Grace Paddock (1960-)** was born on July 21st, with two more children following in the next six years.

After the aforementioned health crisis with her youngest daughter, Kathy, Charlene had decided she was not interested in having any more children, especially because she already had three by the time she turned 25. She was part of a growing trend among American women, as Americans began having fewer children because more of their children survived.⁷ While all of Charlene's eight siblings had survived infancy, the same could not be said for some of her aunts and uncles and older ancestors, many of whom would die at a young age, causing the need for more children to be born to each woman. She had also seen the impact that raising nine children had on her parents, and knew she was better off with just three.

Charlene worked as a babysitter and stay-at-home mother while her kids were growing up, but noticed her relationship with Larry began to take on some strain as he would frequently work late at the school or on the farm with his family. Though Charlene and Larry had their issues like any couple, the two of them tried to make it work. However, by the time their oldest child, Karen was in college, and

⁷ Claude S. Fischer, *Made in America: A Social History of American Culture and Character* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2010), 28.

their son Kelly was about to leave home, the two of them hit a breaking point and separated.

In April 1983 Charlene and Larry divorced, and two months later she married **Maurice Gene Bruns (1937-2015)**. Although it took some time for Charlene and Larry to become amicable again, by the early 1990s, when they started to welcome grandchildren in the world and were both remarried, the two of them began to put their differences aside. Because of the lack of animosity between the two of them, Kourtney and her cousins enjoy a close relationship with both sets of their grandparents.

Charlene and Maurice lived in Fort Scott, Kansas, for the majority of their marriage, where they both worked at the local General Public Transportation office, with Maurice as a driver and Charlene as a dispatcher. In 2008, Maurice's health began to falter, and he was soon forced to retire. Charlene continued working until 2014 when she became a full-time caregiver for Maurice, who was experiencing renal failure. By June 2015, Maurice was having dialysis treatments several times a week and had undergone countless surgeries. When yet another complication with his health arose, Maurice decided he no longer wanted to pursue surgery, and he passed away at home on July 6, 2015. Charlene and Maurice had been married for 32 years when he passed away, and Charlene had gotten used to being a full-time caregiver, so his death was especially hard on her. Charlene remained in their home for the next year, but eventually sold it and moved into an apartment

building for retirees in Fort Scott, Kansas, where she lives today and enjoys spending time with her new friends.⁸

Kourtney's maternal grandfather, **Lawrence Orval Paddock (1941-)**, was born in 1941 in Mound City, Linn County, Kansas, to **Ida Winona Dunavan (1916-2007)** and **Loren Thomas Paddock (1913-1990)**. Lawrence, or "Larry" as he was called all his life, was the oldest of three children, with one younger brother and sister: **Garry Owen Paddock (1943-2006)** and **Leatrice Lorene Paddock (1945-)**. The US Census from 1940, the year before Larry was born, reports that the population of Mound City was 703 people.⁹

In 1961, Larry enrolled in Pittsburg State University, becoming the first member of his family to attend college, and his children and grandchildren would also follow in his footsteps to become Pitt State Gorillas.

Larry began teaching in August 1963 at Stark, Kansas, but he missed his first day of school because his son, **Kelly Joseph Paddock (1963-)** was being born on August 28, 1963.¹⁰ After 1920, male teachers became a more common sight in classrooms across America, and Larry became a part of this relatively new trend.¹¹ He worked as a teacher for 36 years before retiring in 2000. He spent 33 of those years teaching at Jayhawk-Linn High School in Mound City, Kansas, where his children

⁸ Charlene Bruns, Interview with Kourtney Yantis, September 3, 2018.

⁹ Wikipedia. "Mound City, Kansas." Accessed August 26, 2018.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mound_City,_Kansas.

¹⁰ Karen Endicott, Interview with Kourtney Yantis, September 11, 2018.

¹¹ Sohn, Kitae, "The Social Class Origins of U.S. Teachers, 1860-1920," *Journal of Social History* 45, no. 4 (Summer 2012): 908-935. Accessed 10 September 2018.

graduated.¹² Larry was extremely busy during his teaching career, as he also worked on the family farm. Despite his father's cautions about the need for an education, farming was something Larry was always passionate about, that he continues as often as possible to this day.

Staying busy kept Larry happy, but it also took its toll on his marriage to Charlene, and they divorced in 1983. By 1988, Larry married **Karen A. Loveland (1942-)**, and they currently live in Fulton, Kansas.

Linda Jo Thompson (1945-) and **Carl Herbert Endicott (1941- 1966)** were Kourtney's paternal grandparents. Kourtney, unfortunately, has no memory of her Grandpa Carl, as he passed away over thirty years before her birth. But her father, Adam, despite being only four years old when Carl passed away, has plenty of memories of his father, even if they now seem like distant ones.

Linda Jo Thompson (1945-) was born in 1945 in Pittsburg, Kansas, to **Evelyn Katherine Caserio (1922-1982)** and **Abraham G Thompson (1918-2008)**. She had one sister, **Jean L Thompson (1947-2018)**.

Linda grew up in Pittsburg, Kansas, and attended Pittsburg High School until her marriage to **Carl Herbert Endicott (1941-1966)** in 1961. The following year, their first son, Adam Carl was born, followed by a daughter, Lavon, in 1964, and son Franklin in early 1966.

Linda worked as a PE teacher and later a principal for the entirety of her career, but she was just starting out when tragedy struck the

¹² Larry Paddock, Interview with Kourtney Yantis, October 6, 2018.

young family in 1966. At only 21 years old, Linda lost her husband, Carl, in a work-related accident on December 2, 1966. Carl's loss was devastating to Linda and her children, and unfortunately, the family struggled to find a sense of cohesion after his death.

As a young widow with three small children, Linda often struggled to get by, but still attempted to provide for her children as best as she could. However, her children could be a bit of a handful at times, and would often present unique challenges to her, such as when she had to shave their heads after they each got ringworm for their pet cat, and when Adam once attempted to use Lavon as a target for his bow and arrow.¹³

Linda lived in Pittsburg from the time she was born until her children graduated from high school when she moved to Carthage, Missouri. By this time, she had remarried twice, once to **Paul Gillam Sr. (1947-)**, with whom she had one son, **Paul M. Gillam (1977-)**. With Linda and Paul both working all hours of the day, she frequently relied on her older children, who were now teenagers, to help care for their young half-brother. Paul Sr. and Linda would eventually divorce, and Linda then remarried again, to **Richard Ott (1940-)** in April 1981.¹⁴

Linda lived in Pittsburg from the time she was born until her children graduated from high school, when she moved to Carthage, Missouri. She still resides in Carthage, with her husband, Richard, and they are enjoying retirement.

¹³ Adam Endicott, Interview with Kourtney Yantis, October 3, 2018.

¹⁴ Linda Thompson Ott, Interview with Kourtney Yantis, October 21, 2018.

Kourtney's paternal grandfather, **Carl Herbert Endicott (1941-1966)**, was born and raised in Pittsburg, Crawford County, Kansas. Carl was born on June 18, 1941, to **Vada Dortha Schneider (1917-2006)** and **Clarence Franklin Endicott (1910-1963)**. Carl was the second of four children born to this couple, including an older brother, **Phil Franklin Endicott (1940-)**, and two younger siblings, **Nena Kay Endicott (1946-)** and **Neil Leroy Endicott (1948-1948)** who died in infancy.

Carl spent his entire life living in Pittsburg, Kansas, where he graduated from Pittsburg High School in 1959. In 1961 he married **Linda Jo Thompson (1945-)**, and their first child, **Adam Carl Endicott (1962-)**, who was named after his father, was born on July 7, 1962. Carl and Linda had two more children over the next four years, **Lavon Jo Endicott (1964-)** and **Franklin Gwen Endicott (1966-)**. Carl and his brother Phil, as well as Carl's son Adam later on, all had a passion for welding, and it was this job that would tragically take Carl's life in 1966. On November 25, 1966, he was working on a job in Carthage, Missouri, when he accidentally fell while attempting to hang a piece of steel and hit the ground twenty feet below. Critically injured, Carl was taken to St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Missouri, where he lingered for ten days. The doctors and his young family were all hopeful that Carl would make a recovery, which he seemed to be doing on December 2, 1966, but suddenly that afternoon,

Carl passed away from his injuries, with the cause of death being listed as a cerebral contusion.¹⁵

Carl was taken to the family plot at Black Jack Cemetery in Nashville, Missouri, where he was buried next to his father, Clarence, who had passed away three years earlier, as well as his maternal grandparents and great-grandparents. The Endicott and Schneider plots are each situated next to each other in Black Jack, in a pattern reflective of Elizabeth Searcy's assertion that having family members nearby in family plots gives comfort to the living as a symbol of reunion in the afterlife.¹⁶ Though he left behind three small children, Carl's legacy was strong in the Endicott family, with his son Adam later going on to construct an elaborate ornamental iron gate to put around his grave.

¹⁵ Karen Endicott, Interview with Kourtney Yantis, September 11, 2018.

¹⁶ Searcy, Elizabeth, "The Dead Belong to the Living: Disinterment and Custody of Dead Bodies in Nineteenth-Century America," *Journal of Social History* 48, no. 1 (2014): 112-134. Accessed 16 September 2018.

GENERATION FOUR

Ala1a. Grace Olive Boileau (1894-1983)

Ala1b. Charles Oscar Cowan (1891-1974)

Ala2a. Ida Winona Dunavan (1916-2007)

Ala2b. Loren Thomas Paddock (1913-1990)

Alb1a. Evelyn Katherine Caserio (1922-1982)

Alb1b. Abraham Gwen Thompson (1918-2008)

Alb2a. Vada Dortha Jackson (1917-2006)

Alb2b. Clarence Franklin Endicott (1910-1963)

Grace Olive Boileau (1894-1983) was born on May 27, 1894, to **Metta Richards White (1862-1934)** and **William H. Boileau (1858-1929)**. Grace was the sixth of eight children born to the couple and the first girl. She had five older brothers and two younger sisters. Like the rest of her siblings, Grace was born in Iowa, where the Boileaus lived until moving to Walnut, Kansas, by 1910.¹⁷

After moving to Kansas, Grace likely met **Charles Oscar Cowan (1891-1974)** through their local church, as they attended the same one as teenagers. Although there is no record of their first meeting, they likely had a somewhat quick romance, as they were married on January 31, 1912,¹⁸ when Grace was just seventeen years old. The following October, their first child, **Metta Maude Cowan (1913-1993)** was born, and they would have nine children over the next 28 years. The births

¹⁷ "United States Census, 1910," database with images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GRVJ-S1F?i=10&cc=1727033>; accessed 4 September 2018), Grace O Boileaw in household of William H Boileaw, Walnut, Bourbon, Kansas, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 58, sheet 6A, family 122, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 432; FHL microfilm 1,374,445.

¹⁸ Charlene Bruns, Interview with Kourtney Yantis, September 3, 2018.

of their children were so spread out in fact, that by the time Grace gave birth to her youngest child, Kourtney's grandmother, Charlene, her oldest daughter, Metta, already had a 9-month-old child, Carolyn, whom Charlene viewed as even more of a sister than Metta due to the age gap.¹⁹

While her first few children were still young, there is evidence that Grace worked as a correspondent in the "Society News" for the Fort Scott Daily Tribune-Monitor in the Rockford Valley area. As a correspondent, Grace reported on the comings and goings of many neighbors, with many references to her hosting her parents and in-laws at the home of "C O Cowan," AKA her husband Charles, who went by his middle name, Oscar.²⁰ Grace's reports were published in 1916 when she was still only 22 years old and had two young children at home. Societal reporting would have been something that the young mother may have had time for, but was almost certainly a forgotten activity by the time her last child, Kourtney's grandmother Charlene, was born in 1941 when Grace was 47 years old.

Throughout their marriage, Grace and Oscar moved to many different cities throughout Crawford and Bourbon County, including Hepler, Hiatville, Walnut, and Mapleton, where they spent the majority of their marriage.²¹ In Mapleton, they enjoyed the company of many close family members, including children, grandchildren, and even

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Fort Scott Daily Tribune-Monitor. (Fort Scott, Kan.), 05 Oct. 1916. Kansas Historical Open Content. Newspapers.com
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/23468683/fort-scott-daily-tribune-and-fort-scott/> (Accessed 5 September 2018).

²¹ Charlene Bruns, Interview with Kourtney Yantis, September 3, 2018.

great-grandchildren. It was also in Mapleton that Oscar passed away in 1974.

After the death of her husband of sixty-one years, Grace decided to continue living at home.²² In Figure 4.10, "Americans Who Live Alone, by Age and Gender," in their book *Century of Difference*, Fischer and Hout illustrate the percentage of Americans, both male and female, who lived alone throughout the twentieth century. Two graphs are given, one which shows the percentage of males in different age categories that lived alone, while the second chart offers the same information, but applies to the female population. These age categories are 18 to 29, 30 to 44, 45 to 64, and 65 and older. The authors offer the analysis that Americans, especially elderly women, were increasingly beginning to live by themselves.²³

Grace lived alone for about a decade following the death of her husband in 1974. As she was about to celebrate her 80th birthday when Oscar died, Grace falls into the category of women 65 or older who lived alone. According to Fischer and Hout's graph, by the time Grace passed away in 1983 she was part of the almost 40 percent of American women 65 or older who lived alone.

Grace is remembered by her family members, especially her daughter Charlene, as a very independent woman who was somewhat ahead of her time regarding the responsibilities within the family. Her determination is exemplified in her decision to live by herself

²² Charlene Bruns, Interview with Kourtney Yantis, September 3, 2018.

²³ Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference: How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 84.

following the death of her husband, especially considering she was still living by herself, albeit with assistance from her nine adult children, by the time she passed away on August 9, 1983, at age 89 in Mapleton, Kansas. Grace was buried in Mapleton Cemetery, next to her husband, Oscar.²⁴

Charles Oscar Cowan (1891-1974) was born on January 30, 1891, to **William Gilbert Cowan (1865-1948)** and **Anna Maude Kough (1868-1945)**.

Charles was the second of six children born to the Cowans, which included five boys and one girl. From a young age, Charles went by Oscar, his middle name, and was even listed as Oscar in federal census records.²⁵ Based on Census records, Charles lived in Bourbon County, Kansas, for the majority of his life. It was in this county that he met the love of his life, **Grace Olive Boileau (1894-1983)**, whom he married in 1912 and had nine children with. At the time of their marriage, Oscar was 21 and Grace was only 17 years old. Grace's decision to marry at 17 did not sit well with Grace's parents, and her mother Metta would later tell Grace that she did not like Oscar anyway, because of how frequently Grace was pregnant. Metta's

²⁴ Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/68426443/grace-olive-cowan>: accessed 5 September 2018), memorial page for Grace Olive Cowan (1894-1983), Find A Grave Memorial no. 68426443, citing Mapleton Cemetery, Mapleton, Bourbon County, Kansas, USA ; Maintained by Have Paws will travel ! (contributor 46634910).

²⁵ "United States Census, 1900," database with images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-6737-N3J?cc=1325221>: accessed 4 September 2018), Oscar Cowan in household of William Cowan, Marion Township Bronson, Bourbon, Kansas, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 44, sheet 9A, family 194, NARA microfilm publication T623 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1972.); FHL microfilm 1,240,4.

granddaughter Charlene has often remarked at the hypocrisy of that comment, as Metta had eight children herself. Though the children were not all born consecutively, there were always plenty of mouths to feed at the Cowan household, which relied on Oscar to provide for them. Therefore, Oscar followed in the footsteps of his father and older brother and became a farmer to support his family.²⁶

Though all of his children would remember him fondly, Charlene especially has a plethora of good memories of her father as she was the youngest of the bunch and perhaps spent the most one-on-one time with him. However, this does not mean that Oscar was not a disciplinarian when he needed to be, and he certainly did not coddle his youngest daughter. Once when Charlene was a little girl, she took it upon herself to pester her mother to make popcorn. Grace told Charlene she was not going to make popcorn that day, and Charlene threw a fit, and screamed and cried for several minutes. About the same time, Oscar came home from work and ran through the door because he heard screaming and thought something was horribly wrong at home. When he found out Charlene was merely throwing a fit, he had her sit at the kitchen table for at least an hour without moving as punishment for her outburst.²⁷ This is an example of the changing mindset that parents took towards disciplining their children in the 1900s, as

²⁶ "United States Census, 1920," database with images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9R62-6BB?cc=1488411>: accessed 5 September 2018), Charles O Cowan, Pawnee, Bourbon, Kansas, United States; citing ED 54, sheet 2A, line 31, family 28, NARA microfilm publication T625 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1992), roll 525; FHL microfilm 1,820,525.

²⁷ Charlene Bruns, Interview with Kourtney Yantis, September 3, 2018.

Peter Stearns argues, "ultimately, by the middle decades of the twentieth

, American child-rearing advice would turn even further away from obedience, seeing it as an evasion of personal responsibility, a potential social liability, and a check on the child's creativity and critical capacity. Of course, obedience might be essential when physical safety was involved."²⁸

Charles and Grace celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary in 1972. Two years later, Charles passed away on April 26, 1974. He was buried in Mapleton Cemetery in Mapleton, Kansas, where his wife Grace would join him ten years later.

Ida Winona Dunavan (1916-2007) was born on September 14, 1916, to **Lawrence Dunavan (1888-1964)** and **Zelda Mae Stites (1890-1979)**. Ida was the second of four children born to the couple. Ida grew up in Paris Township, Linn County, Kansas, where she lived until her wedding to **Loren Thomas Paddock (1913-1990)** on August 7, 1937.²⁹ In the first years of their marriage, Ida worked as an office clerk for the Farm Bureau.³⁰ During this time, Ida and Loren made their home in Mound

²⁸ Stearns, Peter N., "Obedience and Emotion: A Challenge in the Emotional History of Childhood," *Journal of Social History* 47, no. 3 (2014): 593-611. Accessed 16 September 2018.

²⁹ "United States Census, 1930," database with images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GRHQ-YXB?cc=1810731>: accessed 4 September 2018), Ida Dunavan in household of L Wilbur Dunavan, Paris, Linn, Kansas, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 10, sheet 8A, line 31, family 182, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 708; FHL microfilm 2,340,443.

³⁰ "United States Census, 1940," database with images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L9MR-4GWJ?i=12&cc=2000219>: 13 March 2018), Ida Paddock in household of Loren Paddock, Mound City Township, Linn, Kansas, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 54-11, sheet 7A, line 28, family 148,

City, Kansas, where they raised their three children. Their oldest son, Kourtney's grandfather Lawrence, who is also her namesake, was likely named after Ida's father, Lawrence Dunavan.

Ida's husband, Loren, died in 1990, and she would remarry a few years later. Ida married **Pat Sisson (1916-1992)**, who died less than a year after their wedding.³¹

Ida spent some of her final years in a nursing home in Pleasanton, Kansas, before going to live with her daughter. Kourtney remembers visiting her in the nursing home with her Grandpa Larry. Each time Kourtney would walk into the room, Ida, who was now suffering from the effects of Alzheimer's would always say "I used to have pretty red hair like yours."³²

Ida died of the effects of Alzheimer's disease on Christmas Day, December 25, 2007, at the home of her daughter, Leatrice, in Denison, Texas. She was buried in Mound City, Kansas, next to her husband of nearly 53 years, Loren.³³

Loren Thomas Paddock (1913-1990) was born on July 22, 1913, to **Miles Henry Paddock (1872-1940)** and **Mary Jane Dunbar (1876-1956)** in Mound City, Linn County, Kansas. Loren was the youngest of four

Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940, NARA digital publication T627. Records of the Bureau of the Census, 1790 - 2007, RG 29. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2012, roll 1241.

³¹ Karen Endicott, Interview with Kourtney Yantis, September 11, 2018.

³² Personal knowledge of the author, Kourtney L. Yantis.

³³ Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/35976803/ida-sisson>: accessed 4 September 2018), memorial page for Ida Paddock Sisson (14 Sep 1916-25 Dec 2007), Find A Grave Memorial no. 35976803, citing Wesley Chapel Cemetery, Mound City, Linn County, Kansas, USA ; Maintained by Find A Grave (contributor 8).

children born to the Paddocks and was the only boy. As the only boy of a farmer, Loren could be found out in the fields from a young age. It was probably this childhood experience which would impact his insistence in later years that his son, Larry, get a college education rather than becoming a farmer.³⁴

During High School, Loren could frequently be found at the football field, as he enjoyed the game and played throughout high school. In fact, the team enjoyed some success, as evidenced by clippings from Mound City newspapers that were collected by Loren's daughter, Leatrice and given to her niece, Karen.³⁵

Loren's involvement in sports, in addition to his work on the farm and his high school studies, are an example of the increased community and group involvement discussed by Claude S. Fischer in his work *Made in America: A Social History of American Culture and Character*. Fischer argues that American character has shifted from colonial times to the present day, and one of these changes includes a shift from individualism to a desire to join groups, including newly formed clubs and teams.³⁶

After his graduation from Blue Mound High School in 1931, he married **Ida Winona Dunavan (1916-2007)** and started the Paddock Family Farm. Loren and Ida had three children, Lawrence, Garry, and Leatrice, and Loren spent most of the remainder of his life working on the farm, often accompanied by his sons. Loren also always made time to take his family to church on Sundays, a value that he instilled heavily in his

³⁴ Charlene Bruns, Interview with Kourtney Yantis, September 3, 2018.

³⁵ Personal records of Karen Endicott.

³⁶ Fischer, *Made in America*, 9.

son, Lawrence, who would later become extremely involved in his own church. The Paddocks were a Protestant family, as they were practicing Methodists. In Figure 8.5 of their book, *Century of Difference*, Fischer and Hout point out that during the mid to late twentieth century, the number of practicing Methodists steadily declined, down to about 10% by the time Loren died in 1990.³⁷ Nevertheless, the family continues to consist of mainly practicing Methodists to this day.

Loren died on April 10, 1990, at age 76 in Fort Scott Kansas, and was buried in his hometown of Mound City alongside his parents, and later his wife, Ida.³⁸

Evelyn Katherine Caserio (1922-1982) was born on May 3, 1921, in Springfield, Missouri, to **Joseph B Caserio (1901-1947)** and **Lavon Bell Custor (1901-1961)**.

Although Evelyn was still living at home in 1940 when she turned 18, she had already begun working as a housemaid for a local family.³⁹ By 1944, however, Evelyn had married **Abraham Gwen Thompson (1918-2008)**, and their two daughters, Linda and Jean, were born over the

³⁷ Fischer and Hout, *Century of Difference*, 197.

³⁸ Find A Grave, database and images

(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/40464295/loren-thomas-paddock>: accessed 4 September 2018), memorial page for Loren Thomas Paddock (22 Jul 1913-10 Apr 1990), Find A Grave Memorial no. 40464295, citing Wesley Chapel Cemetery, Mound City, Linn County, Kansas, USA ; Maintained by DK Paddock (contributor 47116013).

³⁹ "United States Census, 1940," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89MR-Q3FX>: 14 March 2018), Evelyn Caserio in household of Joseph B Caserio, Ward 4, Pittsburg, Pittsburg City, Crawford, Kansas, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 19-24A, sheet 17B, line 54, family 507, Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940, NARA digital publication T627. Records of the Bureau of the Census, 1790 - 2007, RG 29. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2012, roll 1227.

next four years. Evelyn worked with her husband, Abe, in his flower shop, Abe's Flowers, in Pittsburg, Kansas, until the shop closed with Abe's retirement.

Evelyn died on August 7, 1982, in Pittsburg, Kansas, and was buried at Mount Olive Cemetery. Her husband Abe remarried in 1982, but was buried next to Evelyn when he died in 2008.⁴⁰

Abraham Gwen Thompson (1918-2008) was born on March 18, 1918, in Duckville, Tennessee, to **James K Thompson (1883- ?)** and **Laura Thompson (1885-?)**. Abe was the youngest of three children born to the couple, and had two older brothers, **Luke (1906-?)** and **Paul (1909-?)**.

Abe moved to Kansas with his family in 1923 at age 5 and spent the remainder of his life living in Pittsburg, Kansas. However, Abe did spend time in Europe, as he served in World War II in the army from 1941-1945 when he received an honorable discharge. During the war years, Abe married **Evelyn Catherine Caserio (1922-1982)** in Pittsburg, Kansas, when he was home on leave. Abe was present for the Battle of the Bulge toward the end of the war, and suffered frostbite from the extreme conditions. This frostbite, later coupled with complications from diabetes, would later mean that his legs would need to be amputated from the knee down, but this would not occur until the late 1990s. Upon his return from war service, Abe and his wife Evelyn decided to begin a family, and they had two daughters: **Linda Jo Thompson Ott (1945-)** and **Jean L Morgan (1948-2018)**. After the war Abe worked in a flower shop in Pittsburg before decided to start his own

⁴⁰ Personal Knowledge of the Author, Kourtney Yantis.

business. He ran Abe's Flower Shop until he chose to retire in 1980. His grandson, Adam, worked with Abe in the shop as his first job and he credits Abe with instilling a work ethic in him that he carries to this day.⁴¹

A year after Abe's retirement his wife, Evelyn, passed away at age 60. The following year, on April 1, 1982, at age 62, Abe married **Bertie Mae Mitchell Wolgamuth (1937-2014)** who was almost 20 years his junior. Despite the age difference, Abe and Bertie remained married for the rest of Abe's life, although he had already chosen to be buried next to his wife Evelyn and had his name inscribed next to hers on their shared tombstone after her death.

In the later years of his life, Abe suffered from complications of diabetes, requiring numerous surgeries and treatments. His primary caregiver during this time was his grandson, Adam, as a stroke had incapacitated his wife, Bertie. Kourtney fondly remembers spending many afternoons and weekends at her "Grandpa" Abe's house, where she would often entertain her great-grandparents with quotes from her favorite movies, or trivia facts about the US Presidents. Since Abe lived right down the street from the Endicotts, and no other grandparents lived in town, Kourtney enjoyed her visits with Abe and Bert and was devastated when her mother picked her up from school one day to tell her that Abe had passed away. A few days later, Kourtney attended her first visitation but did not go with her parents to the cemetery for the funeral.

⁴¹ Adam Endicott, Interview with Kourtney Yantis, October 3, 2018.

Following his death, Abe was cremated, with part of his ashes being buried next to his wife, Bertie. Another part of his ashes was given to Adam, who took Kourtney to Monkey Island on Grand Lake in Oklahoma, one of Abe's favorite spots, and scattered them with her. While she did not fully understand the significance of scattering the ashes at the time, that experience is now a very special memory to Kourtney, of both a bonding opportunity with her father and a chance to say goodbye to her great-grandfather.⁴²

Vada Dortha Schneider (1917-2006) was born on March 10, 1917, to **Herbert Elbert Schneider (1890-1984)** and **Vada Buell Brown (1894-1927)**. Vada had two brothers, **John Elbert Schneider (1913-2003)** and **Leonard Schneider (1919-1976)**.

Vada married Clarence Endicott and had their first child, Phil Franklin Endicott by 1940 when she was 23 years old. They would have three more children over the next eight years.

Vada's first husband, Clarence died in 1963. Following Clarence's death, Vada would marry three more times, outliving each of her husbands. Her last husband, **Fred Loyd Jackson (1911-1984)** died little more than a year after his marriage to Vada.⁴³ Vada survived her last husband by more than twenty years, but did not remarry again, and went by Vada Jackson for the rest of her life.⁴⁴ However, upon her death on September 28, 2006, she was buried in Blackjack Cemetery next to her

⁴² Personal knowledge of the author, Kourtney L. Yantis.

⁴³ Adam Endicott, Interview with Kourtney Yantis, October 3, 2018.

⁴⁴ Karen Endicott, Interview with Kourtney Yantis, September 11, 2018.

first husband and the father of her children, Clarence Endicott, and her headstone reads "Vada D. (Schneider) Endicott Jackson".⁴⁵

Clarence Franklin Endicott (1910-1963) was born to **John Franklin Endicott (1879-1963)** and **Minnie May Smith (1873-1926)** on August 19, 1910, in Plattsburg, Missouri. Clarence had two sisters, **Gladys Mae Endicott (1908-1981)** and **Verna Marie Endicott (1913-1978)**.

Clarence married Vada Schneider, and the couple would go on to have three sons and one daughter, although their youngest son, Niel, died in infancy. Clarence worked for Dickey-Clay manufacturing in Pittsburg, Kansas, as a foreman for the majority of his life. He retired a few years before his death.⁴⁶

On October 22, 1963, Clarence suffered a fatal heart attack and passed away that day.⁴⁷ He was buried in Blackjack Cemetery in Nashville, Barton County Missouri, in his family plot. He would be joined three years later by his son, Carl, from a tragic accident, and by his wife, Vada in 2006.

⁴⁵ Find A Grave, database and images

(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/44673771>: accessed 24 September 2018), memorial page for Vada Dortha Schneider Jackson (10 Mar 1917-28 Sep 2006), Find A Grave Memorial no. 44673771, citing Blackjack Cemetery, Nashville, Barton County, Missouri, USA ; Maintained by Kathy Margrave (contributor 46545595).

⁴⁶Adam Endicott, Interview with Kourtney Yantis, October 3, 2018.

⁴⁷Find A Grave, database and images

(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/38732057>: accessed 24 September 2018), memorial page for Clarence Franklin Endicott (19 Aug 1910-22 Oct 1963), Find A Grave Memorial no. 38732057, citing Blackjack Cemetery, Nashville, Barton County, Missouri, USA ; Maintained by Nena (contributor 47145054).

GENERATION FIVE

Ala1a1. Metta Richards (1862-1934)
Ala1a2. William H. Boileau (1858-1929)

Ala1b1. Anna Maude Kough (1867-1945)
Ala1b2. William Gilbert Cowan (1865-1948)

Ala2a1. Zelda May Stites (1890-1979)
Ala2a2. Lawrence Wilbur Dunavan (1888-1964)

Ala2b1. Ida Katherine Crystal (1876-1956)
Ala2b2. Miles Henry Paddock (1872-1940)

Alb1a1. Lavon Bell Custor (1901-1961)
Alb1a2. Joseph B Caserio (1901-1947)

Alb1b1. Laura Roberts (1883-1938)
Alb1b2. James K Thompson (1883-1974)

Alb2a1. Vada Buel Brown (1894-1927)
Alb2a2. Herbert Elbert Schneider (1889-1984)

Alb2b1. Minnie May Smith (1872-1926)
Alb2b2. John Franklin Endicott (1879-1963)

Metta Richards (1862-1934) was born in Canada in 1862 to **George A. Richards (1834-?)** and **Charlotte E. Crane (1841-1875)**. Metta was the only child born to the couple.

There is minimal documentation about Metta's life before her marriage to William, and her daughter, Grace, did not have any information about her mother's early days when she was asked about it by her own daughter, Charlene.⁴⁸ More research is needed to find information about Metta's life prior to 1879.

⁴⁸ Charlene Bruns, Interview with Kourtney Yantis, September 3, 2018.

On March 5, 1879, Metta married **William H. Boileau (1858-1929)** in Mills County, Iowa.⁴⁹ Their first child, **Guy William Boileau (1880-1922)** was born the following year, and they would have seven other children by 1900, including Kourtney's great-grandmother, **Grace Olive Boileau (1894-1983)**.

Metta's granddaughter, Charlene, remembers hearing stories about how angry Metta was towards her husband, William, for forcing the family to move from Iowa to Kansas between 1900 and 1910.⁵⁰ Having been born in Canada and gradually moving south throughout her life, it is not surprising that Metta was upset about being uprooted, but each time her daughter, Grace, would come to visit, Metta would bring up her displeasure with living in Kansas.⁵¹

Despite her disapproval of the state, Metta lived in Kansas for the rest of her life, even after the death of her husband in 1929. Metta died in Neosho County, Kansas, on July 19, 1934, and was buried there, sharing a headstone with her husband of fifty years, William.⁵²

⁴⁹ "Iowa, County Marriages, 1838-1934," database, <i>FamilySearch</i> (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KLWN-5MN?from=lynx1&treeref=KLQH-HW6>: 17 October 2017), William H Boileau and Metta Richards, 05 Mar 1879, , Mills, Iowa, United States; citing reference , county courthouses, Iowa; FHL microfilm 1,491,827.

⁵⁰ "United States Census, 1910," database with images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GRVJ-S1F?cc=1727033>: accessed 7 September 2018), Metta Boileaw in household of William H Boileaw, Walnut, Bourbon, Kansas, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 58, sheet 6A, family 122, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 432; FHL microfilm 1,374,445.

⁵¹ Charlene Bruns, Interview with Kourtney Yantis, September 3, 2018.

⁵² Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/30942667>: accessed 6 September 2018), memorial page for William Harley Boileau (1858-1929), Find A Grave Memorial no. 30942667, citing Hepler Cemetery, Hepler, Crawford County, Kansas, USA ; Maintained by robin hixon (contributor 46979634).

William H. Boileau (1858-1929) was born on May 1, 1858, to **Samuel Boileau (1821-1864)** and **Mary Pharaby Patterson (1823-1860)** in Amesville, Athens County, Ohio, the sixth of seven children. By 1879, when William was 21 years old, he had moved to Mills County, Iowa, where he married **Metta Richards (1862-1934)**.

William worked as a farmer for the majority of his life, and eventually moved the family out of Iowa and down to Southeast Kansas, presumably for better farmland. Despite his wife, Metta's, objections, the family remained in Kansas, and their descendants are still in Linn County today.

William spent most of his life in Hepler, Kansas, where his daughter, Grace, and son-in-law, Oscar Cowan, also lived for several years. By 1910, the first year that the Boileaus were counted in the census as living in Kansas rather than Iowa, the population of Hepler was 276 people, 10 of which were the Boileau family. This population number was up 28% from the 1900 census when only 215 people had been recorded. The population would decrease again in 1920 and 1930, by which time William had passed away.⁵³

William died in 1929 and was buried in Hepler, Crawford, County, Kansas.⁵⁴

Anna Maude Kough (1867-1945) was born in Pennsylvania in 1867 to **Andrew Joseph Kough (1842-1898)** and **Elizabeth Gribble (1843-1933)**.

⁵³ Wikipedia. "Hepler, Kansas." Accessed October 24, 2018.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hepler,_Kansas.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

Anna married **William Gilbert Cowan (1865-1948)** on February 21, 1889, in Bourbon County, Kansas, at age 22.⁵⁵ The couple would have six children during their marriage, five of whom were boys. Their only daughter, **Florence E Cowan (1911-2001)** was their youngest child.

Anna died in 1945 and was buried in Marion Cemetery in Redfield, Kansas.⁵⁶

William Gilbert Cowan (1865-1948) was born to **Edwin Henry Harrison Cowan (1839-1916)** and **Mary Elizabeth Johnson (1844-1932)** on August 22, 1865, in Rockford Valley, Bourbon County, Kansas.

William married Anna Kough in 1889, and raised their family on the farm, finding ample help from his five boys. William lived in Bourbon County, Kansas, for the duration of his life.

His granddaughter, Charlene vividly remembers a time when William lived with his son Oscar and daughter-in-law Grace because he would often get into quarrels with Grace about sugar. The nation was going through an era of rationing, likely during World War II, and William had developed a penchant for eating raw sugar. So, Grace would frequently find that her sugar bowl was empty when she needed to cook

⁵⁵ Kansas County Marriages, 1855-1911, database with images, <i>FamilySearch</i> (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q29Q-7L79:3 November 2017>), W G Cowan and Annie M Kough, 21 Feb 1889; citing Marriage, Bourbon, Kansas, United States, district clerk, court clerk, county clerk and register offices from various counties; FHL microfilm 1,434,891.

⁵⁶ "Find A Grave Index," database, <i>FamilySearch</i> (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVVD-3DMP: 11 July 2016>), Anna Maude Kough Cowan,; Burial, Redfield, Bourbon, Kansas, United States of America, Marion Cemetery; citing record ID 13388376, <i>Find a Grave</i>, <http://www.findagrave.com>.

or bake, and would often get onto William about eating it, which he would promptly ignore.⁵⁷

William died in 1948, just a few years after his wife, Anna, and was buried next to her in Marion Cemetery.

Zelda May Stites (1890-1979) was born on December 4, 1888, to **George Dunavan (1847-1921)** and **Katie Maria Rogers (1859-1947)**.

Zelda married **Lawrence Wilbur Dunavan (1888-1964)** in 1908, and they would have four children together, including Kourtney's great-grandmother, Ida Winona.

After the death of her husband, Lawrence, in 1964, Zelda's health began slowly declining. In her final years, Zelda seemed to be suffering the effects of Alzheimer's disease. Her grandson, Larry, remembers visiting her in the hospital in Garnett, Kansas, just a few weeks before she died. Zelda and Larry talked for quite some time, and she kept mentioning how handsome he looked. It was not until after Larry left, however, that he realized that Zelda had no idea who he was during the entirety of their conversation.⁵⁸

Zelda died on February 22, 1979.

Lawrence Wilbur Dunavan (1888-1964) was born on December 4, 1888, to **George Dunavan (1847-1921)** and **Katie Maria Rogers (1859-1947)**.

Lawrence was born in Newark, Kendall County, Illinois, and later moved to Kansas. Lawrence was the fifth of eight children.

⁵⁷ Charlene Bruns Interview with Kourtney Yantis, September 3, 2018.

⁵⁸ Lawrence Paddock, Interview with Kourtney Yantis, October 6, 2018.

Lawrence and **Zelda May Stites (1890-1979)** were married on December 24, 1908 in Mound City, Kansas,⁵⁹ where they would raise their family of four children. Lawrence's daughter, Ida Winona, would later name her oldest son, Lawrence Orval, after her father, and thus Lawrence also became the namesake of his great-great-granddaughter, Kourtney Lawren.

Lawrence died in Mound City, Kansas, on February 28, 1964 and was buried there.

Ida Katherine Crystal (1876-1956) was born on August, 24 1876 in Ray County, Missouri, to **Peter Harrison Crystal (1840-1917)** and **Louise Hermann (1847-1928)**, who was an immigrant from Germany⁶⁰. Ida was the fifth of the eight Crystal children, and she had six sisters and one brother.

Ida married **Miles Henry Paddock (1872-1940)** on January 8, 1905, in Mound City, Linn County, Kansas. Ida and Miles would go on to have four children. They had three girls, **Jennie Louise Paddock (1906-2001)**, **Marry Margaret Paddock (1909-1993)**, and **Elma Mae Paddock (1912-2000)**. Ida and Miles also had one boy, Kourtney's great-grandfather, **Loren Thomas Paddock (1913-1990)**.

Ida lived in Linn County, Kansas, for most of her life, and she and Miles had made their home in Mound City, where their son, Loren,

⁵⁹ "Kansas, Marriages, 1811-1911," database, <i>FamilySearch</i> (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FWLS-4MF>: 8 November 2017), L. Wilbur Dunavan and Zelda Stites, 24 Dec 1908; citing Marriage, 24 Dec 1908, Mound City, Linn, Kansas, United States, various counties' district court, and the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka; FHL microfilm 1,521,457.

⁶⁰ "Deutschland Geburten und Taufen, 1558-1898," database, <i>FamilySearch</i> (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NXBZ-BF4>: 11 February 2018), Louise Hermann, 05 Apr 1847; citing ; FHL microfilm 860,334.

would also raise his family. However, when Ida became ill in late 1956, she was taken to a hospital in Fort Scott, Kansas, where she died on December 20, 1956.

Miles Henry Paddock (1872-1940) was born March 25, 1872, in Critzer, Linn, Kansas, to **Thomas Henry Paddock (1839-1916)** and **Mary Jane Dunbar (1847-1921)**. Miles was born just a year after the death of his older sister, **Lettie Francis Paddock (1870-1871)** who had died at just six months old. Altogether, Thomas and Mary Jane Paddock had twelve children, and two of them, Lettie and Miles' younger brother **Jessie Harper Paddock (1881-1881)** would die before their first birthday. The loss of two of Miles' siblings is an example of the general trend that most parents in the 19th century would bury at least one child.⁶¹

Aside from the death of his siblings, Paddock family tradition states that Miles and his remaining brothers and sisters had what one might call an average farm life. In 1903, Miles was appointed as a rural mail carrier for Mound City, Kansas, as a substitute for his younger brother, **Tedford David Paddock (1878-1966)**. This appointment was listed in the Topeka State Journal and, as in many census and political records, Miles was listed by his initials, M H Paddock, rather than his first name.⁶²

It is possible that Miles and his family might have been in contact with a descendant of William Henry Harrison, grandson James Findlay

⁶¹ Fischer, *Made in America*, 17.

⁶² The Topeka State Journal. (Topeka, Kan.), 18 Aug. 1903. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress. <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn82016014/1903-08-18/ed-1/seq-2/> (Accessed 9 September 2018).

Harrison, who died in Mound City in 1907.⁶³ The Paddocks had lived in Mound City since at least 1877, when Miles' grandfather, **David Paddock (1809-1877)** passed away, and it is likely that Mr. Harrison, who was also a veteran of two wars, was somewhat of a local celebrity among the inhabitants of Linn County.

Miles lived his entire life in Linn County, Kansas, where he passed away on January 9, 1940, from cancer.⁶⁴

Lavon Bell Custor (1901-1961) was born in 1901 to unknown parents in Kansas. In Kourtney's family, not much has been shared about the family of her paternal great-grandmother, Evelyn Caserio. Evelyn was born in 1922, but further research will be necessary to determine when her parents, Lavon Custor, and Joseph B Caserio, were married, or who Lavon's parents are. The only records available are information from her tombstone, which lists her lifespan as 1901-1961, and census records that show Lavon and Joseph were married in 1930 and 1940.

Lavon was born in Kansas, and although her husband, Joseph, was also Kansas-born, his family had migrated from Italy just a few years before his birth, allowing him to be classified as Italian. In the first few decades of the twentieth century, intermarriage outside of ethnicity or nationality was still relatively rare, especially concerning Italians, as shown by Fischer and Hout's Figure 3.8 in *Century of Difference*. This table shows that from 1900-1939, less than

⁶³ The Chanute times. (Chanute, Kan.), 22 Feb. 1907. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress.
<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85030529/1907-02-22/ed-1/seq-7/> (Accessed 10 September 2018).

⁶⁴ Lawrence Paddock, Interview with Kourtney Yantis, October 6, 2018.

25% of Italians married someone whose national origins were different from their own⁶⁵, a data trend that Joseph and Lavon's marriage did not support. By 1940, however, the percentage had gone up to over 50 percent, so Lavon and Joseph were a part of a shifting pattern that was being observed regarding intermarriage.

Neither Evelyn's daughter, Linda, or her grandson, Adam, are certain of why Evelyn chose to be secretive about her parents, but perhaps future research will help uncover her origins.

Lavon died in 1961, around the age of 60, and was buried in Pittsburg, Kansas, with her husband, Joseph.⁶⁶

Joseph B Caserio (1901- 1947) was born to **Battista Pietro Caserio (1865-?)** and **Anna Sartorio (1867-?)** in 1901 in Kansas. Joseph's parents were born in Italy but had immigrated to Kansas before his birth.⁶⁷

Joseph married Lavon Custor in Kansas, and their daughter, **Evelyn Katherine Caserio (1922-1982)** was born on May 3, 1921, in Springfield, Missouri. There is no record that Joseph and Lavon had any other children during their marriage, perhaps because Joseph died at the

⁶⁵ Fischer and Hout, *Century of Difference*, 45.

⁶⁶ "Find A Grave Index," database, <i>FamilySearch</i> (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QK12-2K7K>: 15 December 2015), Lavon B. Caserio, ; Burial, Pittsburg, Crawford, Kansas, United States of America, Mount Olive Cemetery; citing record ID 143753198, <i>Find a Grave</i>, <http://www.findagrave.com>.

⁶⁷ "Italia Matrimoni, 1809-1900," database, <i>FamilySearch</i> (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1: XK36-Y2P>: 10 February 2018), Battista Caserio and Anna Sartorio, 06 Apr 1890; citing Torino, Torino, Italy, reference cn4; FHL microfilm 1,568,498.

relatively young age of 46, in 1947, and he was buried in Pittsburg, Kansas.⁶⁸

Laura Anne Roberts (1883-1938) was born on April 16, 1883, to **John Judson Roberts (1858-1924)** and **Martha Jane Worley (1858-1905)** in Tennessee.

By the time she was 18 years old, Laura had moved to Georgia, where she married **James K Thompson (1883-1974)**, on October 6, 1901. Laura and James had three boys over the next 17 years, **Luke Thompson (1906-1989)**, **Paul R Thompson (1909-1970)**, and **Abraham Gwen Thompson (1918-2008)**.

Laura died in 1938, at the age of 55.⁶⁹

James K Thompson (1883-1974) was born to **William Thompson (1833-1904)** and **Kysia Cross (1845-1928)** in Jerusalem, Georgia, on May 28, 1883. He was the eighth of nine children born to the couple.

James grew up in Georgia, and in 1901, at age 18, he married **Laura Anne Roberts (1883-1938)**. James and Laura's son, Abraham Gwen, was Kourtney's great-grandfather.

During World War I, James bred and raised mules to sell to the U.S. government for the war effort. Due to the high demand, James made a substantial amount of money with this business, but when the war came to an end, he was left with far too many mules to continue

⁶⁸ "Find A Grave Index," database, <i>FamilySearch</i> (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QK12-2KSR>: 15 December 2015), Joseph J. B. Caserio, 1947; Burial, Pittsburg, Crawford, Kansas, United States of America, Mount Olive Cemetery; citing record ID 143753270, <i>Find a Grave</i>, <http://www.findagrave.com>.

⁶⁹ Adam Endicott, Interview with Kourtney Yantis, October 3, 2018.

selling, and ended up losing all his money. This would prompt him to move to Kansas with his wife Laura and their three sons in 1923.⁷⁰

In Kansas, James never had the same levels of success that he enjoyed during World War I, but he did enjoy the company of his wife, Laura, until her death in 1938, and that of his children and grandchildren. James eventually died in Joplin, Missouri, in 1974.

Vada Buell Brown (1894-1927) was born in Missouri in 1894 to **Cyrus B. Brown (1861-?)** and **Laura Victoria Fraiser (1871-?)**.

Vada married **Herbert Elbert Schneider (1890-1984)**, and they had three children, **John Elbert Schneider (1913-2003)**, **Vada Dortha Schneider (1917-2006)**, and **Leanord Schneider (1919-1976)**.

Although her husband and children all lived well into old age, Vada had always had health problems as a young woman, and they slowly took their toll on her life. Eventually, Vada died as a young mother on November 28, 1927, from heart failure.⁷¹

Herbert Elbert Schneider (1890-1984) was born to **John Schneider (1856- ?)** and **Rachel A Lauck (1866-?)**.

Herbert married Vada Buell Brown, and they had three children before her death in 1927. Herbert, however, enjoyed an extremely long life, living until 1984, when he finally passed away at age 96.

Minnie May Smith (1872-1926) was born on February 14, 1873. Information about her life has also been limited among Kourtney's paternal side of the family, although it is known that she was born

⁷⁰ Adam Endicott, Interview with Kourtney Yantis, October 3, 2018.

⁷¹ Linda Jo Thompson Ott, Interview with Kourtney Yantis, October 21, 2018.

and died on Valentine's Day, February 14 and that she married **John Franklin Endicott (1879-1963)** in 1907.⁷² Minnie and John had three children together, **Gladys Mae Endicott (1908-1981)**, **Clarence Franklin Endicott (1910-1963)**, and **Verna Marie Endicott (1912-1978)**.

Minnie died on February 14, 1926, and was buried in Pittsburg, Kansas.⁷³

John Franklin Endicott (1879-1963) was born in 1879 in Kansas to **Thomas Jefferson Endicott (1845-1916)** and **Lucretia Weaver (1848-?)**.

John lived in Crawford County, Kansas, for much of his life, which is where he married Minnie May Smith and raised their three children. For most of his adult life, John worked as a boilermaker Southeast Kansas. He was living in Crawford County when World War I broke out, and he received a draft card.

John may have lied about his age when the World War I draft began. His birthday was listed on his draft card as December 25, 1876, yet all his census records, from the time he was a child throughout his adult life, put his year of birth in 1879.⁷⁴ Lying about his year of birth would have made him exempt from the draft, as the age cutoff for service was forty years old, but more research will be required to determine if he truly lied or not. However, with three young children

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ Adam Endicott, Interview with Kourtney Yantis, October 3, 2018.

⁷⁴ "United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," database with images, <i>FamilySearch</i> ([https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-91H6-GN6?cc=1968530:13 March 2018](https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-91H6-GN6?cc=1968530:13%20March%2018)), John Franklin Endicott, 1917-1918; citing Crawford County no 2, Kansas, United States, NARA microfilm publication M1509 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm 1,643,510.

at home, it would not be shocking to learn that John Endicott tried to avoid military service.

In 1916 after the death of his father, John sued his paternal aunts and uncles for a portion of land that had been disputed in his father's estate.⁷⁵ It is unknown how the familial dispute ended, as this is not an issue that John's descendants had ever heard about.⁷⁶

John died in 1963, the same year as his son, Clarence.

⁷⁵ Fort Scott Daily Tribune-Monitor. (Fort Scott, Kan.), 04 May 1916. Kansas Historical Open Content. Newspapers.com
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/23468741/fort-scott-daily-tribune-and-fort-scott/> (Accessed 5 September 2018).

⁷⁶ Adam Endicott, Interview with Kourtney Yantis, October 3, 2018.