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The Family History of Taylor Oestmann

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**The Family History of
Taylor Oestmann
21 August 2018**

Taylor Jane Oestmann authored this family history as part of the course requirements for HIST 550/700 Your Family in History offered online in Spring 2017 and was submitted to the Pittsburgh State University **Digital Commons**. Please contact the author directly with any questions or comments:
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GENERATION ONE

Taylor Jane Oestmann (1996-) was born at Jane Phillips Medical Center in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, to **Larry LaRoy Oestmann (1961-)** and **Deborah Marie Drake (1960-)**. After eighteen hours of grueling labor and a short hospital stay, Taylor was taken to the small town of South Coffeyville, Oklahoma, with a population below one thousand, where she would reside until the age of twenty one.¹

Taylor is the youngest and only child that Larry and Deborah share together. For the majority of Taylor's life, she grew up with the feeling of being the only child in the household due to the large age gap she shares with her four older half siblings. This situation coupled with living in the country away from other children caused Taylor to acquire a vivid imagination in order to keep herself entertained.

In 2001, Taylor started kindergarten at South Coffeyville Elementary in Oklahoma. The total of students in her class was below ten, and only four of them were girls. The small number of students in Taylor's classes fluctuated throughout her entire school career at South Coffeyville School, but the total never went above twenty. Such low student numbers was a reoccurring theme in the small school, but it gave everyone, teachers and students alike, the sense of being a family.²

¹ Wikipedia. "South Coffeyville, Oklahoma." Accessed 10 September 2018. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Coffeyville,_Oklahoma.

² Personal knowledge of the author, Taylor Oestmann.

Throughout Taylor's high school career, she preferred spending her time reading books, obsessing over boy-bands, and planning imaginary trips through Europe rather than getting involved in sports like the majority of the students. Instead of participating, Taylor was seen on the sidelines of almost every home football game with her friends cheering on her classmates. It was not until Taylor's senior year that she began to participate in extra-curricular activities, such as being an active member of the Student Council, playing in the annual Powder Puff game, and running for and winning football Homecoming Queen. In the same year, Taylor also began to become serious about her school work and grades, which had never been the case before.

In May of 2014, Taylor graduated high school with the same students she had gone to school with for the past thirteen years. It was a bittersweet moment for Taylor, but she was excited for the new adventure of college. After realizing the potential she had academically her senior year, Taylor decided to push herself through the entirety of college. Taylor decided to begin her college career at Coffeyville Community College (CCC), a small two-year junior college.

In August of 2014, Taylor began seeking her Associate of Arts degree and soon joined Phi Theta Kappa, the official honor society of two-year institutions and the largest honors society in the world.³ According to Fischer in *Made in America*, groups have become a major part of American society, unlike the prior individualistic society

³ Wikipedia. "Phi Theta Kappa." Accessed 18 October 2018. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phi_Theta_Kappa.

America had started out as.⁴ This has become so true that groups, such as clubs, have become a huge part of student life at schools and universities. Groups, similar to the ones mentioned that Taylor joined, have become pinnacle aspects of a person's success due to networking possibilities and experience.

After setting out her goal of pushing herself academically, Taylor surprised herself and her family when she graduated with honors and a 4.0 GPA in May of 2016. After graduating, Taylor decided to take a gap-year to work and decide on the next path she wanted to take. One of Taylor's biggest dreams came true in July of 2016 when she was able to travel through Europe after years of saving money. It was the most exciting but also the most terrifying adventure of her life.

She explored seven western European countries with a group of strangers in the short span of sixteen days. Some of Taylor's favorite experiences were wine tasting in Italy, a train ride up Mount Pilatus in Switzerland, a cruise down the Seine in Paris, and viewing the city of London from the top of the London Eye. Throughout her trip, Taylor was able to gain vast amounts of big city experience that she had never been subjected to until then.

After returning from her European Adventure, Taylor began working as a merchandiser for a card company and began planning her next steps academically. After much internal debate, Taylor determined that pursuing a degree in English would be the most fitting choice and would allow her to channel her creativity. Originally, Taylor had

⁴ Claude S. Fischer, *Made in America* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010), 9.

decided to attend Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, but when two of her good friends from high school, Evalys and Athena, decided they were going to attend Pittsburg State University, Taylor decided to join them. Taylor and her two friends also decided to rent a three bedroom duplex together for the upcoming year in Pittsburg.

In August of 2017, Taylor began living in Pittsburg and started her first semester at Pittsburg State University. The transition from living in the same house and town that she grew up in to living in a new place was rocky for Taylor. Throughout her first semester, Taylor faced many difficulties, including the ongoing struggle with her mental health. With the help of her friends, family, and counseling provided by the university, Taylor was able to successfully complete her first semester after it had seemed almost impossible. After a rocky start, Taylor's transition to living in Pittsburg and attending university became easier and she quickly found herself in her second year attending Pittsburg State.

GENERATION TWO

Ala. Deborah Marie Drake (1960-)
Alb. Larry LaRoy Oestmann (1961-)

Taylor's mother, **Deborah Marie Drake (1960-)**, was born in Coffeyville, Kansas, in 1960 to **Raymond Adrian Drake (1916-1996)** and **Lois Jane Brown (1920-1992)**. Deborah, also known as Debbi, was the youngest of seven children. She grew up in a house that was on twenty acres of property in rural Noxie, Oklahoma. Some of her fondest childhood memories included her sitting on the sink and singing with her mom, while her mom did the dishes.⁵

Debbi started school in the first grade at a small school in Wann, Oklahoma, where she eventually graduated with her high school diploma. Debbi remembers hating school, even as a young child, but she did create cherished memories of fishing with a friend named Donna she met in her class. As she began to finish up school, Debbi became more focused on work. She got her first job in 1976 at TG&Y in Coffeyville, Kansas, where she earned \$1.96 per hour. On her off time, she and her best friend, Cheryl, would drive her 1967 Rebel Rambler up and down 8th Street in Coffeyville, where all the teenagers at the time converged.⁶ This type of converging on a public space is something that Fischer in *Made in America* speculates on. Fischer discusses the theme of how public areas, like streets or town squares, became a social

⁵ Deborah Oestmann, interview with Taylor Oestmann, 13 October 2018.

⁶ Ibid.

opportunity, unlike the recent retreat from public spaces in today's current society.⁷

After graduating high school in 1978, Debbi began working at the First National Bank in Coffeyville for \$400 per hour as a proof operator. While she was working there, she met Scott Michael Decker, who was doing construction on the bank. Soon after, she took him to the faculty Christmas Party, and they began dating.⁸

On 3 May 1980, Debbi married Scott in Coffeyville. Soon after their marriage, Debbi became pregnant with her first child, Brooke Leah Decker (1981-), and she quit her job. By 1983, Debbi and Scott bought a house in Delaware, Oklahoma. Debbi began working again shortly after at Condon National Bank as a bookkeeper. Early into 1987, Debbi had her second child, Whitney Nicole Decker (1987-).⁹

By January of 1991, Debbi was working at Kisler Oil Co. in Coffeyville as an accountant. During this time, she was having issues within her marriage, and her and Scott eventually separated. While she was working there, she met **Larry LaRoy Oestmann (1961-)**. Deborah and Scott divorced in 1992, which left Deborah in financial hardship. She was only making \$1000 a month, which was not enough to sustain herself and her two children, who lived with her full-time.¹⁰

After her divorce, Debbi began dating Larry. Larry was born in Nowata, Oklahoma, to **Vernon Rudolf Oestmann (1936-2016)** and **Elva Faye Mathes (1940-)** in the autumn of 1961. Larry grew up on his parents'

⁷ Claude S. Fischer, *Made in America* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010), 194.

⁸ Deborah Oestmann, interview with Taylor Oestmann, 13 October 2018.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

farm in rural South Coffeyville, Oklahoma, with six siblings. As one of the two sons in the family, Larry spent much of his childhood helping his dad around the farm. Similar to Debbi, Larry was also married at the time that they had met and had two children: Amanda Kay Oestmann (1981-) and Richard Paul Oestmann (1987-). During the time that Debbi and Larry dated, Larry was separated from his wife, and his divorce was not finalized until in May of 1994.¹¹

Shortly after the death of her mother in 1992, Debbi began working at Coffeyville Community College, where she first began as a tech prep secretary before becoming a records clerk in the Registrar's Office. During this time, she and Larry moved in together in Coffeyville. Larry continued working on his father's farm and began a part-time job for a rural water district in Nowata County, Oklahoma. On 7 October 1994, Debbi and Larry got married in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. By 1996, the couple had bought a home, and they were expecting their first and only child together: **Taylor Jane Oestmann (1996-)**.¹²

Debbi and Larry both came from families with a large amount of children, but they did not continue that cycle. According to Fischer and Hout in *Century of Difference*, this became a national norm for their generation. In Figure 9.6, "Ideal Numbers of Children, by Year and Type of Place," the two authors demonstrate during the end of the 1950s and into the 1960s, rural families' average number of children was higher than those of town and city families. This average number

¹¹ Larry Oestmann, interview with Taylor Oestmann, 31 October 2018.

¹² Deborah Oestmann, interview with Taylor Oestmann, 13 October 2018.

dropped drastically during the 1980s and 1990s, explaining the size change from the families Debbi and Larry came from as opposed to the size of family they created their own.¹³

In 1998, Debbi decided to go to college in order to generate more opportunities and create more financial stability for herself. The persistent insecurity early Americans experienced due to poverty that Claude S. Fischer describes in his book, *Made in America*, was a familiar feeling for Debbi.¹⁴ Due to her financial hardships and past dependencies, Debbi worked towards financial security for her family. At the age of forty, she received her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Human Resources from Bartlesville Wesleyan University, now known as Oklahoma Wesleyan University, all the while raising her daughters and working fulltime. The fear of insecurity still follows Debbi but more so for the futures of her daughters. She began to instill in them the importance of independence and financial security through receiving a college degree.¹⁵

Debbi's hard work paid off as she was promoted to Dean of Institutional Research and Enrollment in 2013 after working as the Registrar for Coffeyville Community College since 2003. To this day, Debbi still holds the position, and Larry continues to work on his

¹³ Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 228.

¹⁴ Claude S. Fischer, *Made in America* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010), 37.

¹⁵ Deborah Oestmann, interview with Taylor Oestmann, 13 October 2018.

parents' farm, even after the passing of his father. The couple looks forward to their future retirements on Table Rock Lake in Missouri.¹⁶

¹⁶ Ibid.

GENERATION THREE

Ala1. Lois Jane Brown (1920-1992)
Ala2. Raymond Adrian Drake (1916-1996)

Alb1. Elva Faye Mathes (1940-)
Alb2. Vernon Rudolf Oestmann (1936-2016)

Taylor's maternal grandmother, **Lois Jane Brown (1920-1992)**, was born in June of 1920 in Washington County, Oklahoma, to **Joseph Wilson Brown (1882-1935)** and **Letha Ann Sullivan (1902-1970)**. Lois was born with a twin sister, **Lillian Josephine Brown (1920-2018)**. Lois and Lillian were practically inseparable as they grew up together. By the time Lois was ten, she was living with her parents and six siblings in Coffeyville, Kansas.¹⁷ While she was living in Coffeyville, she met **Raymond Adrian Drake (1916-1996)**, who she married on 6 August 1936 in Independence, Kansas, when she was sixteen.¹⁸

Raymond was a native of the Coffeyville area. He was born in December of 1916 to **Paul Wayne Drake (1894-1974)** and **Clara May Walters (1898-1926)** in Montgomery County, Kansas. Raymond was the second oldest of the four children born to Paul and Clara. When he married Lois, Raymond was nineteen and only had two dollars in his pocket. After the couple was married, they continued to live in Coffeyville, where they spent many years trying to start a family. They had a hard

¹⁷ "United States Census, 1930," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X7QG-GKS>; accessed 17 November 2018), Lois Brown in household of Joseph W Brown, Coffeyville, Montgomery, Kansas, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 17, sheet 9A, line 36, family 229, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 712; FHL microfilm 2,340,447.

¹⁸ Deborah Oestmann, interview with Taylor Oestmann, 13 October 2018.

time conceiving and considered adoption until they finally had their first child. While living in Coffeyville, Lois and Raymond had four children. In 1950, they bought a twenty acre property, where they had three more children, including Taylor's mother **Deborah Marie Drake (1960-)**.¹⁹

In 1989, Lois was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, which she battled until her death on 5 October 1992. She was buried at Robbin's Cemetery in Coffeyville. After Lois' death and with her blessing, Raymond married Mary Lavena Whittenburg, and they lived on the twenty acre property that Raymond had bought with Lois. After three years of marriage, Raymond died in his sleep at the age of seventy-nine. He was buried beside Lois in Coffeyville.²⁰

Although Taylor did not have the opportunity to meet her maternal grandmother, she did spend much of her childhood with her paternal grandmother, **Elva Faye Mathes (1940-)**. Elva was born in May of 1940 in a small country house six miles outside of Talala, Oklahoma, to **Paul Ralph Mathes (1909-1985)** and **Gladys Faye Peyton (1917-2004)**. She had an older sister, Juanita Pauline Mathes (1937-2014).²¹

All of Elva's childhood, she lived in the country. Neither she nor her sister had many toys to play with, so they had to utilize their imagination, which resulted in making a lot of mud pies. A common occurrence during Elva's childhood was going with her mother every Saturday to Collinsville, Oklahoma, to sell their eggs in order to buy groceries. She also recalls occasions when she would go with her dad,

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Elva Oestmann, interview with Taylor Oestmann, 8 September 2018.

Paul, to haul milk for the local farmers to the Meadow Gold Co. in Tulsa, Oklahoma.²²

Although Elva was very young during World War II, she remembers small effects that the war caused. She recollects her parents using sugar stamps and coffee rations during the time of United States' involvement. It was not until shortly after the end of the war that the Mathes household received electricity in their home. Elva remembers turning on the light switch the moment her sister got home from school to show her the amazing event.²³

As Elva became of school age, she attended a one room, non-denominational school house just outside of Talala. She attended the small school until her family moved to Nowata, Oklahoma, when Elva was about to enter the fourth grade. The school she attended in Nowata was bigger than the last; there were two rooms instead of one. As Elva got older, she got her first job at the drive-in theater east of Nowata in the concession stand. She remembers the job being enjoyable due to the people she was able to meet.²⁴

During one of Elva's free-nights, she was hanging out with friends when she met **Vernon Rudolf Oestmann (1936-2016)**, who was on his way to Bartlesville, Oklahoma, at the time and had just happened to make a stop in Nowata. They got along very well, and a relationship blossomed. Shortly after graduating, Elva married Vernon on 23 November 1958 in Chelsea, Oklahoma.²⁵

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

Vernon was born in July of 1936 in Grainola, Oklahoma, to **Richard John Oestmann (1906-1967)** and **Ella Emma Wolff (1904-1975)**. Similar to Elva, he was the second child born to his parents, but he would later have a younger brother, Elmer Lee Henry Albert Oestmann (1939-2007).²⁶ By 1940, Vernon and his family had moved to Chelsea, Oklahoma, where his father farmed.²⁷ Vernon's entire life involved some form of farming, which had much to do with his upbringing and the area he grew up. The small town of Chelsea relied heavily on agriculture. Corn, oats, and wheat are some of the most important farm products that the farmer's in the area produce, which is what Vernon's farm later produced.²⁸

All throughout Taylor's paternal family, farmers and dairymen are the reoccurring career choice that appears to be passed down through the generations. According to the *Chickasha Daily Express* in 1918, the regulations on dairy in Oklahoma communities began to adopt a three grade system for the production and sale of the goods.²⁹ This change to the dairy industry made the jobs of the family's dairymen much more difficult to sustain, thus causing them to rely more heavily on farming than dairy for family income. Throughout the years, the

²⁶ Larry Oestmann, interview with Taylor Oestmann, 31 October 2018.

²⁷ "United States Census, 1940," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VBKV-HN1:14 March 2018>), Richard Oestmann, Chelsea Township, Rogers, Oklahoma, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 66-4, sheet 8A, line 37, family 138, 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 3330.

²⁸ Wikipedia. "Chelsea, Oklahoma." Accessed 10 September 2018. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chelsea,_Oklahoma.

²⁹ The Chickasha daily express. (Chickasha, Indian Territory [Okla.]), 07 Feb. 1918. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn86090528/1918-02-07/ed-1/seq-2/> [Accessed 13 September 2018].

regulations on dairy became even more stringent, which caused many of dairymen in Taylor's family to turn away from the industry entirely.

Vernon also grew up as a Lutheran, which caused Elva to convert after their marriage in 1958. Although differences in religion were once a key component of marriages, that ideology began to shift during Vernon and Elva's time. According to Figure 8.7 "Married Couples with Different Religions or Different Denominations," Fischer and Hout note the rise in probability of people from different religions or denominations marrying. The percentage of couples marrying of different denominations spiked over ten percent for those who were born after 1939.³⁰

For much of Vernon's childhood, he lived in a predominately German household, which had an effect on his life.³¹ In Figure 3.7 "Use of English among Foreign-Born, by Years in the United States, 1900 to 1920 and 1980 to 2000," Fischer and Hout, the authors of *Century of Difference*, illustrate that from 1900 to 1920 less than half of the incoming immigrants in America spoke English in their first five years. According to the Figure, the longer the immigrants lived in America, the higher the percentage of English speakers rose.³² Since Vernon grew up in a completely German household, this information can be applied to his life. Both of his maternal grandparents were German immigrants, which caused his mother, Ella, to grow up speaking only

³⁰ Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 202.

³¹ Elva Oestmann, interview with Taylor Oestmann, 8 September 2018.

³² Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 43.

German in the household. Vernon's parents continued the tradition of speaking German in the rural household, and by the time Vernon and his sister, Leola May Oestmann (1935-), were of school age, they only spoke German. This caused Vernon much difficulty his first year of school until he had learned enough English to communicate sufficiently.³³ According to Fischer and Hout's data, Vernon's grandparents and parents were a part of the minority percentage that did not adapt and incorporate English into their households at that time.

After Vernon married Elva, the couple lived in Chelsea, Oklahoma, where they had their first child: Elverna Faye Oestmann (1959-2001), who was born with Down syndrome. After the birth of Elverna, the family moved to Nowata, where Elva had five more children, including Taylor's father, **Larry Oestmann (1961-)**. By the autumn of 1973, the Oestmann family had moved their home to the land Vernon purchased in rural South Coffeyville, Oklahoma, to continue dairy farming. There the couple had one more child, making the total seven children. As years progressed, dairy regulations became more and more stringent, which caused Vernon to switch to stock cattle, but this took years. Between 1984 and 1985, Vernon and Elva began selling their dairy cows and had to rely on three hundred chickens as an income source. For about four years, they would sell the hatching eggs to Stillwater Hatchery while they built their stock cattle herd. Eventually, Vernon

³³ Elva Oestmann, interview with Taylor Oestmann, 8 September 2018.

and Elva were able to sustain their family off of the stock cattle entirely.³⁴

Vernon continued to farm, whether his health permitted or not, up until his death on 12 December 2016. Days before Vernon's death, he suffered a massive stroke and was taken to Coffeyville Regional Medical Center, where he later passed. Vernon was buried in Mount Washington Cemetery in Lenapah, Oklahoma, where his daughter, Elverna, was buried. Taylor remembers her grandfather as ornery, stubborn, yet a very lovable man. Elva precedes Vernon in death and still lives on the same farm in South Coffeyville that she and Vernon grew together.³⁵

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Personal knowledge of the author, Taylor Oestmann.

GENERATION FOUR

Ala1a. Letha Ann Sullivan (1902-1970)
Ala1b. Joseph Wilson Brown (1882-1935)

Ala2a. Clara May Walters (1898-1926)
Ala2b. Paul Wayne Drake (1894-1974)

Alb1a. Gladys Faye Peyton (1917-2004)
Alb1b. Paul Ralph Mathes (1909-1985)

Alb2a. Ella Emma Wolff (1904-1975)
Alb2b. Richard John Oestmann (1906-1967)

Taylor's maternal great-grandmother, **Letha Ann Sullivan (1902-1970)**, was born in Kingman, Kansas, on 28 August 1902 to **James Marion Sullivan (1876-1918)** and **Lula Adella Rex (1880-1950)**.³⁶ By the age of seven, Letha and her family were living in Owasso, Oklahoma.³⁷ It was in Oklahoma that Letha met **Joseph Wilson Brown (1882-1935)**, who she married on 17 August 1917 in Tulsa, Oklahoma.³⁸ Joseph was born twenty years before Letha in St. Clair, Missouri, on 12 April 1882 to **Horatio T. Brown (1840-1881)** and **Josephine J. Wilson (1848-unk)**. Joseph's father, Horatio, passed away before his birth while the family still resided in Missouri. Before marrying Letha, Joseph had married another woman named Annie Belle McHatton.³⁹ According to the census records, by

³⁶ Deborah Oestmann, interview with Taylor Oestmann, 13 October 2018.

³⁷ "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MLQW-73F>: accessed 9 November 2018), Letha A Sullivan in household of Jame M Sullivan, Owasso, Tulsa, Oklahoma, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 221, sheet 4A, family 56, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 1274; FHL microfilm 1,375,287.

³⁸ "Oklahoma, County Marriages, 1890-1995", database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q2M1-1YLF>: 14 October 2017), Joseph Wilson Brown and Lethia Sullivan, 1917.

³⁹ Kansas County Marriages, 1855-1911, database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q29Q-3SNG> : 3 November 2017), J W Brown and Annie Belle McHatton, 26 Dec 1906; citing Marriage, Neosho, Kansas,

1920 Joseph was living in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, with Letha as his wife.⁴⁰ Together the couple had many children together, including Taylor's maternal grandmother and great-aunt who were twins, **Lois Jane Brown (1920-1992)** and Lillian Josephine Brown (1920-2018).⁴¹ Sometime after 1920, the family moved to Coffeyville, Kansas, where Joseph died on 6 November 1935 of Bright's disease and was buried in Fairview Cemetery.⁴² After Joseph's death, Letha got remarried to Charles Marion Mason, who died shortly after the betrothal. She then married her last husband Harvey Lee Smart of Oklahoma. On 19 November 1971, Letha passed away due to diabetes complications in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and was buried in Dewey, Oklahoma.⁴³ Her husband Harvey survived her by fifteen years and was then buried next to her.⁴⁴

Continuing on through Taylor maternal family, her great-grandmother **Clara May Walters (1898-1926)** was born on 15 September 1898 to **Adarom D. Walters (1869-unk)** and **Delia Disney (1872-unk)** in Illinois. She was the second child born to the couple. By 1910, she had moved with her

United States, district clerk, court clerk, county clerk and register offices from various counties; FHL microfilm 1,404,959.

⁴⁰ "United States Census, 1920," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MN1J-KPB> : accessed 11 November 2018), Joe Brown, Bartlesville Ward 4, Washington, Oklahoma, United States; citing ED 271, sheet 70A, line 17, family 949, NARA microfilm publication T625 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1992), roll 1490; FHL microfilm 1,821,490.

⁴¹ Deborah Oestmann, interview with Taylor Oestmann, 13 October 2018.

⁴² *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com>: accessed 11 November 2018), memorial page for Joseph Wilson Brown (1882-6 Nov 1935), Find A Grave Memorial no. [68183181](#), citing Fairview Cemetery, Coffeyville, Montgomery County, Kansas, USA; Maintained by fpw (contributor 47044704).

⁴³ Deborah Oestmann, interview with Taylor Oestmann, 13 October 2018.

⁴⁴ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com>: accessed 11 November 2018), memorial page for Letha Ann "Lisa" Sullivan Smart (28 Aug 1902-19 Nov 1971), Find A Grave Memorial no. [74706026](#), citing Dewey Cemetery, Dewey, Washington County, Oklahoma, USA; Maintained by Joe Todd (contributor 47241447).

family to Parker Township in Kansas, which was a small rural community outside of Coffeyville, Kansas.⁴⁵ Clara married **Paul Wayne Drake (1894-1974)** sometime around 1914. Paul, who Clara had met after moving to the area, was originally from Missouri. He was born there on 23 March 1894, and had moved to Kansas by 1910 with his parents, **Francis Richard Drake (1854-1929)** and **Elizabeth Jane Johns (1858-1939)**.⁴⁶

Paul worked at the Coffeyville Vitrified Brick Plant in the 1910s, where two of Clara's brothers also worked at the time.⁴⁷ It was during this time that Coffeyville was at the height of its industrial boom. In 1897, the *Topeka State Journal* reported that the Coffeyville Vitrified Brick plant was being enlarged due to winning a contest against other brick companies across the nation.⁴⁸ The expansion of the brick plant meant an increase of jobs for the area. It is conceivable that the increase of jobs benefited both the Brown and Walters's family's career prospects.

Paul and Clara had four children together: Sherman Drake, **Raymond Adrian Drake (1916-1996)**, Wayne E. Drake (who later was killed in

⁴⁵ "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M2CY-4SD> : accessed 11 November 2018), Clara M Walters in household of Adarom D Walters, Parker, Montgomery, Kansas, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 188, sheet 11B, family 227, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 449; FHL microfilm 1,374,462.

⁴⁶ "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M2CR-B49> : accessed 11 November 2018), Paul Drake in household of Frances R Drake, Caney, Montgomery, Kansas, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 156, sheet 8B, family 176, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 448; FHL microfilm 1,374,461.

⁴⁷ Deborah Oestmann, interview with Taylor Oestmann, 13 October 2018.

⁴⁸ The Topeka state journal. (Topeka, Kan.), 19 May 1897. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn82016014/1897-05-19/ed-1/seq-3/> [Accessed 13 September 2018].

World War II), and an unknown child. It was shortly after their last child was born that Paul and Clara had gone out hunting together. Upon their return, Clara became very sick with what was said to be consumption. On 28 February 1926, Clara died from her illness in their home located in Coffeyville, Kansas, leaving Paul heartbroken and feeling helpless. Paul believed he would be unable to care for all of the children himself, especially the newborn baby, so he adopted out the newborn to family members.⁴⁹

After Clara's death, Paul began to drink heavily, which turned into a problem he dealt with throughout his entire life. He eventually remarried a woman named Edith Powers, who he fought with tremendously. One night after a drunken fight, Paul ran off and attempted to jump onto a moving train. His failed attempt resulted in his legs being completely crushed, but he survived the accident as an amputee. He eventually died of old age on 4 October 1974 in Coffeyville, Kansas, and was buried in Fairview Cemetery.⁵⁰

On Taylor's paternal side of the family, her great-grandmother **Gladys Faye Peyton (1917-2004)**, was born on 14 May 1917 in Oklahoma to **Elvus Peyton (1878-1946)** and **Dora Clayton (1885-1949)**. Gladys grew up in Lincoln County, Oklahoma, on her parents' farm, and she attended a rural school in Avery, Oklahoma.⁵¹ In 1932, Gladys married **Paul Ralph**

⁴⁹ Deborah Oestmann, interview with Taylor Oestmann, 13 October 2018.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ "Oklahoma, School Records, 1895-1936," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q2KM-9HKF>: 10 April 2018), Gladys Payton Or Peyton, 1924; citing School enrollment, Avery, Lincoln, Oklahoma, United States, various County Clerk offices, Oklahoma school district offices, Oklahoma; FHL microfilm 2,449,631.

Mathes (1909-1985) in Avery, Oklahoma, in the home of Pastor Brazel.⁵²

Paul was born in Rogers County, Oklahoma, to **David Luther Mathes**

(1883-1946) and **Stella Anna Johnson (1884-1962)** on 11 November 1909.⁵³

By the age of ten, Paul and his six siblings were living with their parents in Glenpool, Oklahoma.⁵⁴ In 1924, Paul began attending school in Avery, Oklahoma, where he met Gladys.⁵⁵

After the couple was married, they began living in Inola, Oklahoma, where they had their first child, Juanita Pauline Mathes (1937-2014). Shortly before the birth of their second child, Paul and Gladys moved their household to rural Talala, Oklahoma. On 5 May 1940, the couple had **Elva Faye Mathes (1940-)** in their small country home. As their family grew, Paul worked as a milk hauler for the local farmers under Paige Milk Co., and he would haul their milk cans to Meadow Cold Co. Milk Company in Tulsa, Oklahoma.⁵⁶

In 1950, the Mathes family moved from rural Talala to Nowata, Oklahoma, where Paul would continue in the dairy business. On 3

⁵² Elva Oestmann, interview with Taylor Oestmann, 8 September 2018.

⁵³ "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:ML75-19G>: accessed 13 November 2018), Paul Mathes in household of David Mathes, Township 1, Rogers, Oklahoma, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 170, sheet 1B, family 22, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 1273; FHL microfilm 1,375,286.

⁵⁴ "United States Census, 1920," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MJ9F-M7C>: accessed 13 November 2018), Paul R Mathes in household of David L Mathes, Glenpool, Tulsa, Oklahoma, United States; citing ED 197, sheet 6A, line 39, family 126, NARA microfilm publication T625 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1992), roll 1486; FHL microfilm 1,821,486.

⁵⁵ "Oklahoma, School Records, 1895-1936," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q2VB-TTQK>: 10 April 2018), Paul Mathes, 1924; citing School enrollment, Avery, Lincoln, Oklahoma, United States, various County Clerk offices, Oklahoma school district offices, Oklahoma; FHL microfilm 2,449,631.

⁵⁶ Elva Oestmann, interview with Taylor Oestmann, 8 September 2018.

February 1985, Paul passed away in Nowata from heart failure at the age of seventy-five.⁵⁷ He was buried in Nowata Memorial Cemetery, where Gladys was later buried beside him.⁵⁸ Gladys lived in Nowata for the remaining days of her life until she passed on 7 October 2004 in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.⁵⁹ Although Taylor was very young, she remembers visiting Gladys at her home in Nowata and later at the hospital before her death from staph infection.

Taylor's paternal great-grandmother, **Ella Emma Wolff (1904-1975)**, was born on 2 October 1904 in Burton, Texas, to German immigrants: **Gustav Wolff (1874-1952)** and **Othelia Emilie Koreth (1879-1963)**. Ella was one of nine children born to Gustav and Othelia. Not long after Ella's birth, the Wolff family moved to Oklahoma, where Ella attended school in Avery, Oklahoma.⁶⁰ By the time of the 1930 Census, Ella was twenty-five and living with her parents in Rider, Oklahoma.⁶¹

Sometime before 1935, Ella married a farmer, **Richard John Oestmann (1906-1967)**. Richard was born on 6 April 1906 in Avery, Oklahoma, to

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com>: accessed 13 November 2018), memorial page for Paul Ralph Mathes (11 Nov 1909-3 Feb 1985), Find A Grave Memorial no. [21145777](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/21145777), citing Nowata Memorial Cemetery, Nowata, Nowata County, Oklahoma, USA; Maintained by Will (contributor [46861132](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/46861132)).

⁵⁹ Elva Oestmann, interview with Taylor Oestmann, 8 September 2018.

⁶⁰ "Oklahoma, School Records, 1895-1936," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q2TF-2VCN>: 10 April 2018), Gust Wolff in entry for Ella Wolff, 1917; citing School enrollment, Avery, Lincoln, Oklahoma, United States, various County Clerk offices, Oklahoma school district offices, Oklahoma; FHL microfilm 2,448,790.

⁶¹ "United States Census, 1930," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XCWH-QJT>: accessed 13 November 2018), Ella Wolff in household of Guss Wolff, Rider, Mayes, Oklahoma, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 17, sheet 1A, line 16, family 3, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 1913; FHL microfilm 2,341,647.

Henry G. Oestmann (1879-1941) and **Anna Agnes Ropers (1886-1960)**.⁶²

Before marrying Emma, Richard was living in Foraker, Oklahoma, with his parents working on their farm. After the couple was married, they had their first child, Leola May Oestmann (1935-) in Grainola, Oklahoma. While they resided in Gainola, Ella and Richard had two more children: **Vernon Rudolph Oestmann (1936-2016)** and Elmer Lee Henry Albert Oestmann (1939-2007). By 1940, the Oestmann family had moved to Chelsea, Oklahoma, where Richard continued to farm in the rural area.⁶³

Ella and Richard were devout members of the Lutheran Church, and they raised their children accordingly. Although Ella and Richard were not German immigrants themselves, they both had been raised in German dominated households and communities. This upbringing carried over into their own household as they rarely spoke English in the home as Leola and Vernon were young.⁶⁴

Taylor's paternal family emigrated from Germany to Nebraska in the mid-1870s, where many lived out the duration of their lives while others moved to Oklahoma in the early 1900s. The *Omaha Daily Bee* reported news of a Spanish influenza epidemic sweeping across Nebraska in January 1920, which would have been a cause for concern for the family members still living in the state.⁶⁵ Upon further investigation,

⁶² Larry Oestmann, interview with Taylor Oestmann, 31 October 2018.

⁶³ "United States Census, 1940," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VBKV-HN1>: 14 March 2018), Richard Oestmann, Chelsea Township, Rogers, Oklahoma, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 66-4, sheet 8A, line 37, family 138, 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 3330.

⁶⁴ Larry Oestmann, interview with Taylor Oestmann, 31 October 2018.

⁶⁵ Omaha daily bee. (Omaha [Neb.]), 24 Oct. 1918.

the *Omaha Daily Bee* reported that the entire ten person household of a farmer named August Oestmann (1883-1955), a cousin of Richard, was found sick in their home with the infectious disease. Two children of the household were reported deceased due to complications from the influenza.⁶⁶

Before Richard's death, he and Ella moved to Nowata, Oklahoma, which was closer to where his son, Vernon, was currently living at the time.⁶⁷ On 10 July 1967, Richard passed away due to injuries sustained from a combine harvester accident. He was buried in the same cemetery as his parents: Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery in Avery, Oklahoma.⁶⁸ On 7 June 1975, Ella passed away in Nowata, Oklahoma, from a heart attack and was buried beside Richard in Avery.⁶⁹

Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress.
<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn99021999/1918-10-24/ed-1/seq-4/>
[Accessed 13 September 2018].

⁶⁶ Omaha daily bee. (Omaha [Neb.]), 12 March 1920.

Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress.
<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn99021999/1920-03-12/ed-1/seq-1/>
[Accessed 13 September 2018].

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com>: accessed 13 November 2018), memorial page for Richard John Oestmann (6 Apr 1906-10 Jul 1967), Find A Grave Memorial no. [25740570](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/25740570), citing Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery, Avery, Lincoln County, Oklahoma, USA; Maintained by Patty O (contributor 46993006).

⁶⁹ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com>: accessed 13 November 2018), memorial page for Ella Emma *Wolff* Oestmann (2 Oct 1904-7 Jun 1975), Find A Grave Memorial no. [26007472](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/26007472), citing Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery, Avery, Lincoln County, Oklahoma, USA; Maintained by Patty O (contributor 46993006).

GENERATION FIVE

Ala1a1. Lula Adella Rex (1880-1950)
Ala1a2. James Marion Sullivan (1876-1918)

Ala1b1. Josephine J. Wilson (1848-unk)
Ala1b2. Horatio T. Brown (1840-1881)

Ala2a1. Delia Disney (1873-unk)
Ala2a2. Adarom D Walters (1869-unk)

Ala2b1. Elizabeth Jane Johns (1858-1939)
Ala2b2. Francis Richard Drake (1854-1929)

Alb1a1. Dora Clayton (1885-1949)
Alb1a2. Elvus Peyton (1878-1946)

Alb1b1. Stella Anna Johnson (1884-1962)
Alb1b2. David Luther Mathes (1883-1946)

Alb2a1. Othelia Emilie Koreth (1879-1963)
Alb2a2. Gustav Wolff (1874-1952)

Alb2b1. Anna Agnes Ropers (1886-1960)
Alb2b2. Henry G. Oestmann (1879-1941)

Lula Adella Rex (1880-1950) was born in Cooper County, Missouri, on 17 July 1880 to **William Henry Rex (1853-1936)** and **Winnie M. Vaughan (1851-1924)**.⁷⁰ On 21 January 1897, Lula married **James Marion Sullivan (1876-1918)** in Missouri. James was born four years earlier than Lula on 20 January 1876 in Missouri.⁷¹ In 1901, Lula and James were living in Kingman, Kansas, where they had their daughter, **Letha Ann Sullivan**

⁷⁰ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 20 October 2018), memorial page for Lula Adella Rex Sullivan (17 Jul 1880-20 Jun 1950), Find A Grave Memorial no. 131269250, citing Benge Cemetery, Strang, Mayes County, Oklahoma, USA ; Maintained by Wes T. (contributor 48190645).

⁷¹ "United States Census, 1900," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MMTR-BK1> : accessed 21 October 2018), James Sullivan, Kingman Township Kingman city Ward 1-4, Kingman, Kansas, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 113, sheet 10A, family 204, NARA microfilm publication T623 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1972.); FHL microfilm 1,240,484.

(1902-1970) in 1902.⁷² By 1910, Lula was living in Owasso, Oklahoma, with James and their two daughters.⁷³ On 23 October 1918, James suddenly passed away in Barnsdall, Oklahoma.⁷⁴ In 1937, Lula moved to Pineville, Missouri, where she passed away thirteen years later from a two year struggle with uterine cancer.⁷⁵ Lula was buried in Strang, Oklahoma, next to her belated husband.⁷⁶

Josephine John Wilson (1848-unk) was born in January of 1848 in Missouri to **John Wilson (1811-1886)**, an Irish immigrant, and **Mary Jane Johnston (1825-unk)**.⁷⁷ On 27 October 1881, Josephine married **Horatio T. Brown (1840-1881)**.⁷⁸ Horatio was originally from Maryland, where he was born on 10 May 1840 to **Lewis H. Brown (1812-1879)** and **Susan Ann Hudson (1813-1857)**.⁷⁹ On 31 October 1881, Horatio died in Roscoe, Missouri.⁸⁰ It is unclear the date and location which Josephine died.

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MLQW-736> : accessed 21 October 2018), Lulu A Sullivan in household of Jame M Sullivan, Owasso, Tulsa, Oklahoma, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 221, sheet 4A, family 56, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 1274; FHL microfilm 1,375,287.

⁷⁴ Deborah Oestmann, interview with Taylor Oestmann, 13 October 2018.

⁷⁵ "The Division of Health of Missouri Standard Certificate of Death," digital image, *Missouri Digital Heritage*, Accessed October 20, 2018.

https://www.sos.mo.gov/images/archives/deathcerts/1950/1950_00020877.PDF.

⁷⁶ Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 20 October 2018), memorial page for Lula Adella Rex Sullivan (17 Jul 1880-20 Jun 1950), Find A Grave Memorial no. 131269250, citing Benge Cemetery, Strang, Mayes County, Oklahoma, USA ; Maintained by Wes T. (contributor 48190645).

⁷⁷ Deborah Oestmann, interview with Taylor Oestmann, 13 October 2018.

⁷⁸ "Missouri Marriages, 1750-1920," database, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:V2DV-4DM>: 11 February 2018), Horatio T. Brown and John_Josephine Wilson, 27 Oct 1881; citing, St Clair, Missouri; FHL microfilm 945,453.

⁷⁹ "United States Census, 1850," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MD4D-PHL> : 12 April 2016), Horatio T Brown in household of Lewis H Brown, Carroll county, part of, Carroll, Maryland, United States; citing family 720, NARA microfilm publication M432 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

In Illinois sometime in 1872, **Delia Disney (1873-unk)** was born to a farmer named **Joseph Disney (1835-unk)** and his wife **Louisa Disney (1837-unk)**.⁸¹ Around 1893, Delia married **Adarom D. Walters (1869-unk)**. Like Delia, Adarom was born in Illinois in 1870. While living in Illinois, Delia and Adarom had four children, including Taylor's maternal great-grandmother **Clara May Walters (1898-1926)**. By 1910, the Walters family had moved to Parker, Kansas.⁸² It is unclear when or where Delia and Adarom passed away.

In October 1858, **Elizabeth Jane "Lizzie" Johns (1858-1939)** was born in Missouri to **George Harrison Johns (1830-1917)** of Missouri and **Mary Ann Graham (1831-1892)** of Kentucky, who at the time shared a five year old son, George Johns (1853-unk).⁸³ On 24 August 1879, Elizabeth married **Francis Richard Drake (1854-1929)** in Lafayette, Missouri.⁸⁴ Francis, who actually went by his middle name, Richard, was born in

⁸⁰ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 25 October 2018), memorial page for Horatio T. Brown (10 May 1840-31 Oct 1881), Find A Grave Memorial no. 59052089, citing Roscoe Cemetery, Roscoe, St. Clair County, Missouri, USA; Maintained by Richard Parker (contributor 47021994).

⁸¹ "United States Census, 1880," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MXKN-8X9> : 22 August 2017), Louisa Disney in household of Joseph Disney, Wheatfield, Sangamon, Illinois, United States; citing enumeration district ED 231, sheet 265A, NARA microfilm publication T9 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.), roll 0250; FHL microfilm 1,254,250.

⁸² "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M2CY-4SZ> : accessed 25 October 2018), Dellia Walters in household of Adarom D Walters, Parker, Montgomery, Kansas, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 188, sheet 11B, family 227, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 449; FHL microfilm 1,374,462.

⁸³ "United States Census, 1860", database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MHZW-P99>: 14 December 2017), Elizabeth J Johns in entry for George Johns, 1860.

⁸⁴ "Missouri Marriages, 1750-1920," database, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:V2DL-FB3>: 11 February 2018), Francis B. Drake and Elizabeth J. Johns, 24 Aug 1876; citing, Lafayette, Missouri; FHL microfilm 959,415.

Richie, West Virginia on 2 August 1854 to **James Thomas Drake (1830-1886)** and **Berthenia Elizabeth Owens (1831-1915)**.⁸⁵ He resided in West Virginia with his parents and six siblings until moving to Missouri, where he met Elizabeth sometime between 1870 and 1879.⁸⁶ While the couple lived in Missouri, they had ten children, including Taylor's maternal great-grandfather, **Paul Wayne Drake (1894-1974)**. Sometime between 1896 and 1899, Elizabeth and Richard moved to Kansas with four of their children and began residing in Caney, Kansas.⁸⁷ On 2 March 1929, Richard died in Cherryvale, Kansas, and was buried in Fairview Cemetery in Coffeyville, Kansas, where Elizabeth would later be buried upon her death.⁸⁸ After Richard's death, Elizabeth began living with her son, Harrison James "Harry" Drake (1879-1961), in Coffeyville, Kansas, until her death on 21 March 1939.⁸⁹

⁸⁵ "West Virginia Births, 1853-1930," database, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NM4T-64C>: 10 February 2018), Francis Rachel Drake, 1854; citing Ritchie, county courthouses, West Virginia; FHL microfilm 839,536.

⁸⁶ "United States Census, 1870," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MZ4B-7PZ> : 12 April 2016), Francis R Drake in household of James T Drake, West Virginia, United States; citing p. 28, family 182, NARA microfilm publication M593 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm 553,196.

⁸⁷ "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M2CR-BWB> : accessed 21 October 2018), Frances R Drake, Caney, Montgomery, Kansas, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 156, sheet 8B, family 176, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 448; FHL microfilm 1,374,461.

⁸⁸ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 21 October 2018), memorial page for Richard Francis Drake (2 Aug 1854-2 Mar 1929), Find A Grave Memorial no. 68206670, citing Fairview Cemetery, Coffeyville, Montgomery County, Kansas, USA ; Maintained by fpw (contributor 47044704).

⁸⁹ "United States Census, 1930," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X7QG-R6Q> : accessed 21 October 2018), Lizzie Drake in household of Harry Drake, Coffeyville, Montgomery, Kansas, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 22, sheet 1B, line 86, family 22, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National

Dora Clayton (1885-1949) was born in Missouri sometime in the windy month of March of 1885 to a farmer, **William R. Clayton (1852-1917)** of Kentucky, and **Lucinda Flowers (1858-1927)** of Illinois. Dora moved with her parents and eight siblings to Oklahoma and was residing in Lincoln County, Oklahoma by 1900.⁹⁰ Between 1903 and 1904, Dora married **Elvus Peyton (1878-1946)**.⁹¹ Elvus was born in Clay, Indiana, on 22 September 1878 to **Elijah B. Peyton (1839-1902)** and **Nancy E. Rollings (1840-1914)** both of Indiana.

Shortly after Elvus' birth, his family moved to Independence, Kansas, where his dad worked as a farmer.⁹² When Elvus was thirteen, he had moved with his parents to Lincoln County, Oklahoma, where he met Dora.⁹³ It is speculated that the reason for the move to Oklahoma in both the Clayton and the Peyton families was to partake in the Oklahoma Land Rush.

Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 712; FHL microfilm 2,340,447.

⁹⁰ "United States Census, 1900," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MMGJ-JG6> : accessed 22 October 2018), Dora Clayton in household of William R Clayton, Otoe & Union Townships, Lincoln, Oklahoma Territory, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 126, sheet 6B, family 113, NARA microfilm publication T623 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1972.); FHL microfilm 1,241,339.

⁹¹ Elva Oestmann, interview with Taylor Oestmann, 8 September 2018.

⁹² "United States Census, 1880," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MF58-QMX> : 29 August 2017), Elven Peyton in household of Elijah Peyton, Independence, Montgomery, Kansas, United States; citing enumeration district ED 155, sheet 259D, NARA microfilm publication T9 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.), roll 0390; FHL microfilm 1,254,390.

⁹³ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 21 October 2018), memorial page for Elvus Peyton (22 Sep 1878-Nov 1946), Find A Grave Memorial no. [74656207](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/74656207), citing Parkland Cemetery, Agra, Lincoln County, Oklahoma, USA; Maintained by Genealogy Lover (contributor [47431313](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/47431313)).

By 1930, Elvus and Dora had five children, including Taylor's paternal great grandmother, **Gladys Faye Peyton (1917-2004)**.⁹⁴ Elvus and Dora lived in Lincoln County, Oklahoma, for over fifty years, but around 1941, Elvus became sick and died in November of 1946.⁹⁵ Three years after the death of her husband, Dora was visiting one of her daughters near Chickasaw, Oklahoma, when she fell ill and later died in the hospital on 5 September 1949.⁹⁶

Stella Anna Johnson (1884-1962) was born on 20 July, 1884 in Douglas County, Missouri, to **George W. Johnson (1860-1935)** and **Mary Elizabeth Jenkins (1865-1905)**, who were both born in Missouri.⁹⁷ Stella married **David Luther Mathes (1883-1946)** on 23 July 1902 in Douglas County, Missouri. Similar to Stella, David was also born in Douglas County to **James M. Mathes (1821-1901)** and **Judah Ann Summers (1851-Unk)** just a year prior to Stella's birth on 24 February 1883. After the couple was married, they had three children in Missouri before moving to Rogers County, Oklahoma, sometime before 1910, where they had Taylor's

⁹⁴ "United States Census, 1930," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XCW3-VV5> : accessed 22 October 2018), Elvus Peyton, Ponca, Lincoln, Oklahoma, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 32, sheet 4A, line 22, family 58, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 1911; FHL microfilm 2,341,645.

⁹⁵ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 21 October 2018), memorial page for Elvus Peyton (22 Sep 1878-Nov 1946), Find A Grave Memorial no. [74656207](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/74656207), citing Parkland Cemetery, Agra, Lincoln County, Oklahoma, USA; Maintained by Genealogy Lover (contributor 47431313).

⁹⁶ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 21 October 2018), memorial page for Dora Clayton Peyton (1885-1949), Find A Grave Memorial no. [74656194](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/74656194), citing Parkland Cemetery, Agra, Lincoln County, Oklahoma, USA; Maintained by Genealogy Lover (contributor 47431313).

⁹⁷ "Texas Deaths, 1890-1976," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KSBZ-12N> : 13 March 2018), Stella Ann Mathes, 12 Mar 1962; citing certificate number 25398, State Registrar Office, Austin; FHL microfilm 2,116,969.

paternal great grandfather, **Paul Ralph Mathes (1909-1985)**.⁹⁸ By 1920, the family moved to Glenpool, Oklahoma, where they rented a house.⁹⁹ After the children continued to grow and leave the house, Stella and David continued to move around in Oklahoma, until David's death on 23 December 1946 in Stroud, Oklahoma.¹⁰⁰ After David's death, Stella moved to Texas, where she died in Pecos County on 12 March 1962. Following her death, Stella was buried by David in Stroud Cemetery in Lincoln County, Oklahoma.¹⁰¹

Othelia Emilie "Otilie" Koreth (1879-1963) was born on 10 August 1879 in Schokken, Prussia, Germany, to **August Rudolph Koerth (1846-1920)** and **Wilhelmine Ernestine Kelm (1853-1924)**. Othelia and her family immigrated to Texas in 1885 when she was only six.¹⁰² On 7 December 1899, Othelia married **Gustav "Guss" Wolff (1874-1952)** in

⁹⁸ "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:ML75-19V> : accessed 22 October 2018), Stella A Mathes in household of David Mathes, Township 1, Rogers, Oklahoma, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 170, sheet 1B, family 22, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 1273; FHL microfilm 1,375,286.

⁹⁹ "United States Census, 1920," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MJ9F-M7Q> : accessed 22 October 2018), David L Mathes, Glenpool, Tulsa, Oklahoma, United States; citing ED 197, sheet 6A, line 34, family 126, NARA microfilm publication T625 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1992), roll 1486; FHL microfilm 1,821,486.

¹⁰⁰ Elva Oestmann, interview with Taylor Oestmann, 8 September 2018.

¹⁰¹ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 22 October 2018), memorial page for Stella Anna *Johnson* Mathes (20 Jul 1884-12 Mar 1962), Find A Grave Memorial no. 23141955, citing Stroud Cemetery, Stroud, Lincoln County, Oklahoma, USA; Maintained by Find A Grave (contributor 8).

¹⁰² "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M2MN-SWP> : accessed 23 October 2018), August Koerth, Justice Precinct 3, Fayette, Texas, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 58, sheet 4A, family 58, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 1552; FHL microfilm 1,375,565.

Washington County, Texas.¹⁰³ Gustav was also a German immigrant; he was born to **Jakob Wolff (1829-1899)** and **Caroline Hoffmann (1839-1920)** in Germany on 8 July 1874. Gustav immigrated to Texas with his parents and siblings in 1886.¹⁰⁴ By 1905, Othelia and Gustav had four children while living in Washington County, Texas, including Taylor's paternal great-grandmother, **Ella Emma Wolff (1904-1975)**, before moving to Lincoln County, Oklahoma, where Gustav would work as a farmer.¹⁰⁵ While they resided there, Gustav and Othelia had three more children, including Rudolph Herman Wolff (1917-2007), who was a World War II veteran and Purple Heart recipient.¹⁰⁶ By 1930, the Wolff family had moved to Mayes County, Oklahoma, where Gustav continued to farm.¹⁰⁷ On 31 March 1952, Gustav passed away in Chelsea, Oklahoma, and was buried

¹⁰³ "Texas, County Marriage Records, 1837-1965," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QV1C-3WS1> : accessed 22 October 2018), Gustav Wolff and Otilie Koerth, 07 Dec 1899, Marriage; citing Washington, Texas, United States, various county clerk offices, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Texas Dept. of State Health Services and Golightly-Payne-Coon Co.; FHL microfilm 956,491.

¹⁰⁴ "United States Census, 1920," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MJ99-Z5B> : accessed 23 October 2018), Gust Wolf, Marshall, Logan, Oklahoma, United States; citing ED 63, sheet 2A, line 3, family 24, NARA microfilm publication T625 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1992), roll 1470; FHL microfilm 1,821,470.

¹⁰⁵ "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MLWM-BS6> : accessed 23 October 2018), Gustav Wolf, Marshall, Logan, Oklahoma, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 119, sheet 13A, family 104, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 1259; FHL microfilm 1,375,272.

¹⁰⁶ "United States, Obituaries, American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, 1899-2012," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QV5Q-L8JN> : 17 March 2018), Otilie Koerth Wolff in entry for Rudolph Herman Wolff, 28 Jun 2007; citing Obituary, in ""; American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, Lincoln, Nebraska.

¹⁰⁷ "United States Census, 1930," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XCWH-QJ5> : accessed 23 October 2018), Guss Wolff, Rider, Mayes, Oklahoma, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 17, sheet 1A, line 14, family 3, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 1913; FHL microfilm 2,341,647.

in Bethlehem Lutheran Cemetery in Adair, Oklahoma.¹⁰⁸ Eleven years after Gustav's death, Othelia passed away in Chelsea, Oklahoma, on 17 August 1963 and was buried beside Gustav.¹⁰⁹

Anna Agnes "Annie" Ropers (1886-1960) was born on 17 March 1886 in Nebraska. She eventually married **Henry G. Oestmann (1879-1941)**. Henry was born in Nebraska on 28 December 1879 to **Dietrich Friederich Heinrich Östmann (1835-1909)** of Hannover, Germany, and **Magdalena Dorfenthal (1846-1923)**. By 1930, Anna and Henry were living in Osage County, Oklahoma, where Henry worked as a farmer. The couple had five children together, including Taylor's paternal great-grandfather **Richard John Oestmann (1906-1967)**.¹¹⁰ On 28 January 1941, Henry passed away and was buried in Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery located in Avery, Oklahoma.¹¹¹ On 21 March 1960, Anna passed away in Orange County, California, and was buried next to Henry.¹¹²

¹⁰⁸ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com>: accessed 23 October 2018), memorial page for Gustav Wolff (1874-1952), Find A Grave Memorial no. [47419949](#), citing Bethlehem Lutheran Cemetery, Adair, Mayes County, Oklahoma, USA; Maintained by Skey (contributor [47072784](#)).

¹⁰⁹ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com>: accessed 23 October 2018), memorial page for Ottilie Wolff (1879-1963), Find A Grave Memorial no. [47419916](#), citing Bethlehem Lutheran Cemetery, Adair, Mayes County, Oklahoma, USA; Maintained by Anonymous (contributor [47235118](#)).

¹¹⁰ "United States Census, 1930," database with images, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XCW1-S7R> : accessed 26 October 2018), Henry Oestmann, Foraker, Osage, Oklahoma, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 21, sheet 35B, line 64, family 815, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 1922; FHL microfilm 2,341,656.

¹¹¹ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com>: accessed 25 October 2018), memorial page for Henry G Oestmann (28 Dec 1879-29 Jan 1941), Find A Grave Memorial no. [26007128](#), citing Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery, Avery, Lincoln County, Oklahoma, USA; Maintained by Patty O (contributor [46993006](#)).

¹¹² "California Death Index, 1940-1997," database, *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VPKN-KGY>: 26 November 2014), Anna A Oestmann, 21 Mar 1960; Department of Public Health Services, Sacramento.