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### The Family History of Mercedes A. Pankau

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**The Family History of  
Mercedes A. Pankau  
8 September 2019**

Mercedes Pankau authored this family history as part of the course requirements for HIST 550/700 Your Family in History offered online in Fall 2019 and was submitted to the Pittsburg State University Digital Commons. Please contact the author directly with any questions or comments: [woestman@pittstate.edu](mailto:woestman@pittstate.edu)

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## GENERATION ONE

**Mercedes Antoinette Pankau (1997- )** was born at Overland Park Regional in Overland Park, Ks in 1997 to **Royce Dywane Pankau (1965- )** and **Michelle Antoenette Gilbert (1966- )**. Mercedes' father Royce had two older daughters from a previous marriage. However, This was Michelle's first biological child. While she tried to conceive for many years she could not conceive with Mercedes until she was 30. This lead there to be some concern that she would not be able to carry Mercedes to term. Mercedes had a bowel movement in her mother's stomach, which caused Michelle to have to get her water broken. However, the birth went well Michelle was able to deliver Mercedes without any issues.

As Mercedes grew up she was called Sadie by everyone around her. She spent the first eight years of her life growing up at 312 South Street in Bucyrus, Ks. Bucyrus only had a population of 353 people, so she began her childhood in a very small community<sup>1</sup>. The first two years of her life Sadie went to work with her mother who worked as a housekeeper for several families. Royce had worked for glass installation companies for many years and decided to start his own business in 1999. This required Michelle to stay home and manage the accounts of the business. So, Sadie stayed home with her mother rather than ever going to a babysitter.

With the community being so small Sadie would play with the neighborhood kids on her block on a daily basis. Leslie Damian and McKinley Matthews were her best friends. Leslie was Mexican- American so Sadie had the unique experience growing up surrounded by a culture that was not her own. They spent many days playing until the street lights came on. Royce and Michelle enjoyed the small-town atmosphere, but had always wanted to own land. They began

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<sup>1</sup> "Census Profile: Bucyrus, KS." Census Reporter. Accessed September 26, 2019. <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US2009050-bucyrus-ks/>.

searching for land, and when Sadie was 8 years old, they found a piece of property they wanted to buy in Pleasanton.

Soon The Pankau's owned 11042 Reese Rd in Pleasanton, KS. This property was a foreclosure, and need a lot of work before it became livable. Many of the neighbors suggested that the house be burnt down, or totally demolished. However, Michelle loving history refused. The house was built shortly after the Civil War in 1868 and she couldn't stand to let the history go. They began renovating the house. Every weekend the family would drive an hour from Bucyrus to Pleasanton to work on their new home. While staying in Pleasanton the family would live out of an RV as they could not live out of the house. This ended around the time Sadie was 12 years old.

Although The house was not yet finished, the family moved to Pleasanton full time in 2009. They lived in the finished basement and all stayed in one room. This move was caused by Michelle getting temporary custody of her nieces and nephew. **Blessyed Kee (2004- )**, **Joelene Kee (2008- )**, and **Jaden Gilbert (2009- )** all became part of the family. The family still lived in the unfinished house and progressively moved into different rooms.

In Figure 8.2 "Denominations of Protestant Adults," Fischer and Hout layout the many different denominations that fall under the protestant bunch of Christianity. This chart shows that the Southern Baptist Convention and Other Baptist are the majority, both exceeding 15%. The only other denominations that roached the size of both Baptist branches are the Methodist at around 13%, No Denomination at around 9% and Other Lutheran at around 7%. Most other

protestant denominations don't exceed 5%. The authors also grouped denominations by political viewpoints; conservative, moderate, and liberal .<sup>2</sup>

Mercedes Pankau grew up in two small towns in rural Kansas, Bucyrus and Pleasanton. Growing up in a farming area led to be surrounded by conservative ideals. Most of these conservative world views were rooted in the traditional Baptist churches that were very prevalent throughout the area. She grew up with her family attending these Baptist churches themselves.

While Mercedes grew up during a time when religion had less of a hold on society. She still grew up in a family with very traditional views. Her parents grew up in a time where stores were still closed on Sunday and after church Sunday dinner would be waiting. This translated very much into the way she was raised. Church was not an option, it was an appointment to keep every week. This had been the way it was in her family for generations. This could be the cause of the large Baptist percentages. Baptist is a very traditional denomination and it seems to typically be passed down from generation to generation. This could explain the large percentage of such a conservative denomination in an increasingly liberal world. This is still the case today, many of Mercedes' peers seem to be Baptist. Mercedes' family will probably continue to attend Baptist churches for generations.

Sadie was homeschooled through eighth grade. She also completed kindergarten in a month because of being able to complete the work at her own speed. This caused her to have a very innate shyness due to the fact she was an only child at home for most of her life. Although she has two sisters, **Rachel Pankau (1983- )** and **Krystal Pankau (1984- )**, they were out of

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<sup>2</sup> 1. Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 190.

the house by the time she was school- aged as they both began having children of their own at the age of 18. Michelle did try to get Sadie in activities with kids her own age, such as a homeschool bowling league, or a homeschool PE class at the local YMCA. The majority of these activities resulted in Sadie not speaking to the other children though. However, Sadie did enjoy spending time with adults, as well as children smaller than her. This became useful when she became a big sister very unexpectedly. She was able to help her mom take care of Blessyed, Joelene and Jaden.

In 2011 Sadie's life was full of change. Blessyed, Joelene and Jadon went back with their mother and Michelle's sister, **Chandis Kee (1984- )**, as she regained custody. At the same time, She also began to attend public high school. Sadie started her freshman year at Jayhawk-Linn High School in Mound City, Ks in 2011. She had previously taken two classes, math and an alternating elective, at Jayhawk-Linn as well as 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade were all in the same building. Now she was attending classes full time. This was a large adjustment from online schooling alone. At first, she did not speak much, although doing very well on the school work. Some of her teachers quickly saw her potential and quickly encouraged her to try different activities. Soon she was thoroughly involved in many activities. She was involved in everything, from track to drama to National Honor Society to FFA. Being apart of so many organizations helped to come out of her shell and make friends. This is part of her cause behind her desire to become a teacher.

During Sadie's senior year of high school, Chandis lost custody of her children again. Blessyed, Joelene, and Jadon lived with the family again till 2016. This time with the children being older there was many more behavioral issues than the first time. This required a lot of Michelle and Sadie's attention. Along with school, she also had to learn to be a big sister all



over again along with learning how to help her mom with her cousins who had large emotional needs.

Sadie graduated Jayhawk-Linn High with a 3.98 GPA in 2015. She then continued her education at Fort Scott Community College. She attended Fort Scott Community college for two years. She graduated with honors in 2017 with her Associate's of Arts. She then proceeded to go for her Bachelor's of Science in Education with the intention of becoming a middle school social studies teacher. She will graduate in May of 2020.

## GENERATION TWO

### Generation Two

**A1a. Michelle Antoenette Gilbert (1966- )**

**A1b. Royce Dywane Pankau (1965- )**

### **A1a. Michelle Antoenette Pankau**

**Michelle Antoenette Gilbert (1966- )** was born on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1966 at St. Francis Medical Center in Maryville, Mo to **Willa Diane Gilbert (1945- )** and **William Fredrick Gilbert Jr. (1941-2019)**.<sup>3</sup> Michelle had a brother that was three years older than her, **William Fredrick Gilbert III (1963- )**. Michelle was the first girl in the family, with two younger sisters to follow. **Jennifer Suzanne Gilbert (1982- )** born sixteen years late and **Chandis Diane Kee (1985- )** born nineteen years later. Because her sisters were born so much later, the sibling she spent most of her childhood was her older brother Will.

Michelle's family did not have much money growing up so both her parents had to work to make ends meet. Her parents ran the paper route for the Kansas City in many of the surrounding small towns. This meant that her parents had to get up in the middle of the night to throw out the

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<sup>3</sup> Personal knowledge of Mercedes Pankau

paper so that the subscribers would have their paper in the morning. As a very young girl, Michelle would ride along with her mother while she threw out the papers as they didn't have the money for a babysitter. As Michelle and Will got older, they became responsible for maintaining the household. Since their parents their parents has to wake up in the middle of the of the night to get the paper out before the rest of the world was awake, they slept during the day and worked at night. This didn't allow them to have much time to take care of the household or spend much time together as a family. However, the family did set aside Sunday nights to spend time together and watch the *Wonderful World of Disney*. The lack of time with her parents lead to Michelle being very independent.

Michelle and her family moved to California when she was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. They moved to California because. The move was a large culture shock to the family. They were born and raised in a college town in rural Missouri, and they moved to an urban suburb of Los Angeles, when they moved to San Bernardino. Michelle went from a small elementary, to a large diverse junior high school. She began attending a school in which you had to worry about gang violence. She had never been in a school that was very ethnically diverse, and now she was in a school where she was the minority. She also didn't fit in because her family lived in poverty and she could not afford things such as the "cool" brands clothes. She did begin to make friends with African-American girls in her classes who enjoyed playing with her long straight hair. She began to also become friends with other teenagers from her church's youth group.

In Figure 3.2 "Diversity Index by County 2020," Fischer and Hout show the many counties in The United State and where they fell on the spectrum of diversity . This choropleth map shows that the coastal and southern states are the most diverse states in the U.S. San Bernardino county in which Michelle spent her junior high years in was one of the most diverse

counties in the nation as of 2000 ranging somewhere from 60% to 77%. When this compared to her home of Nodaway County, Mo diversity rate in 2000 of somewhere from 1% to 14% , it is completely understandable why she may suffer from culture shock. <sup>4</sup>

Although she was adjusting to life in California her parents were planning to move once again to Mississippi to follow their son who had just gotten married. His new wife's family were moving to Mississippi, so the rest followed. Michelle did not want to move again. Therefore, at the age of sixteen, she moved back to her hometown of Maryville, Mo.

Michelle moved in with her grandmother, **Freda Barg (1909-2004)**. Her grandmother was living alone before Michelle moved in and continued her previous lifestyle. Michelle had almost complete freedom including use of her grandmother's car. After moving, Michelle enrolled in Maryville High School. She was disappointed to find that she had trouble reconnecting with childhood friends. So, she made new a new group of friends and they were inseparable they would go out and cruise the town pretty much every night. Although, Michelle lacked a parental figure during this time she managed to graduate high school in 1984.

After she graduated high school, she attended Northwest Missouri State University with hopes of becoming a commercial artist and going into advertising. When she got to college she became a part of a sorority and lived sorority life to the fullest. She was at every event and party. She began to date a boy she met at a fraternity-sorority and lost focus her on school after her dividing her attention between sorority life and her new relationship. However, after going through a break-up with this boyfriend she was extremely depressed and began to lose interest in school.

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<sup>4</sup> . Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 27.

Shortly after one of her close high school friends introduced her to my father, **Royce Dywane Pankau (1965- )**. Royce had two daughters from a previous marriage **Rachel Pankau (1983- )** and **Krystal Pankau (1984- )**, and Michelle decided to step in and began living with Royce to help raise the girls, which caused her to drop out of school. Royce and Michelle dated for about a year, and got married October 16<sup>th</sup> 1987.

Royce and Michelle moved to Kansas City as there were better job opportunities. They discovered they did not enjoy living in the city, so began looking for houses outside the city. They found a house in Bucyrus, Ks. It needed a lot of work, but they decided it was an opportunity to make it their own. They purchased their first home in 1989. Eight years later their first child together, **Mercedes Pankau (1997- )**, was born.

#### **A1b. Royce Dywane Pankau (1965- )**

Royce Dywane Pankau (1965- ) was born on March 13th, 1965 at St. Francis Medical Center in Maryville, Mo to Shirley Thompson (1937- ) and Noble Pankau (1933-1992). Royce has three older siblings **Robert Pankau (1957- )**, **Rhonda Pankau (1959- )**, and **Rodney Pankau (1961- )**. He also has one younger sibling, **Renea Pankau (1973- )**. Royce was the youngest in his family for eight years until his younger sister was born.

The family lived in Maryville until Royce was three, then they moved to Oregon. They remained in Oregon until Royce was five. The family then moved to Ravenwood, Mo and attended Parnell Elementary School until sixth grade. Then the family moved to Claremore as Noble found a better house for the family. Royce completed seventh, eighth, and part of ninth grade in the Burlington, Mo school system.

When Royce was eleven, he had a serious accident that required him to be in the hospital for over a month. He was helping his mother use smoke to get rid of bees. After they were done

Royce went to put away the gas can they had been using, while his mother went back inside. While taking the gas can back, he spotted another swarm of bees and decided to care of it himself. He poured the gas on the ground and when he lit it, the flame immediately jumped back at him catching his pants on fire. His pants were polyester causing the fabric to melt to his legs. It caused massive third degree burns on his left leg and part of his right leg. The local hospital could not provide the care Royce required, so he was flown to Shriners Burn Institute in Galveston, Tx. All expenses were paid and only 30 beds were available, so Royce was extremely lucky to be able to get into this hospital. This injury required several surgeries and skin grafts, but Royce was able to get full use of his legs back.<sup>5</sup>

The family then moved back to Maryville as Shirley did not like living outside of town. Royce completed the rest of schooling at Maryville High School in 1983. While in high school Royce began dating Kelly Estraca. The couple got pregnant in 1983, when Royce was seventeen. The couple decided to get married and had another daughter in 1984. However, Kelly decided she was not happy and filed for divorce and gave full custody of their daughters to Royce. Royce was forced to become a stay at home dad and filed for welfare. Shortly after, Royce began to date Michelle. The couple got married on October 16<sup>th</sup> 1987 and had Mercedes Pankau (1997- )

### **GENERATION THREE**

**A1a1. Willa Diane Burchett (1945- )**  
**A1a2. William Fredrick Gilbert Jr. (1941-2019)**

**A1b1. Shirley Thompson (1937- )**  
**A1b2. Noble Pankau (1933-1992)**

**A1a1. Willa Diane Burchett (1945- )**

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<sup>5</sup> Royce Pankau, Interviewed by Mercedes Pankau, September 21st 2019

**Willa Diane Burchett (1945- )** was born December 1<sup>st</sup> 1945 at St. Francis Medical Center in Maryville, Mo to **Freda Barg (1909-2004)** and **Marvin Burchett (1921-1958)**.<sup>6</sup> Willa was Freda's only child throughout three marriages. Willa was born and raised in Maryville, Mo but went to visit her aunt in Nebraska during summers. She was enrolled in the Maryville School system her entire school career. Her father died of a heart illness when Willa was only twelve.

Willa married **William Fredrick Gilbert Jr. (1941-2019)** in 1961 at the age of sixteen.<sup>7</sup> Shortly after, at the age of eighteen she gave birth to **William Fredrick Gilbert III (1963- )**. At 21, she gave birth to **Michelle Antoenette Gilbert (1966- )**. While living in California, at the age of 36, She gave birth to **Jennifer Suzanne Gilbert (1982- )**. After finally settling at the age of 39, she had the last child **Chandis Diane Kee (1985- )**.

The couple settled the couple finally settled in Texas after living in Missouri, California, then Mississippi. The couple began a company in which they did painting and maintenance work. They raise their daughters, Jennifer and Chandis, in The Colony, Tx. Willa and William lived in Texas for 24 years before moving Pleasanton, Ks. They moved to Pleasanton as it was where three of their four children currently lived. The had retired and decide to move to be closer to their family. That is where Willa has resided there since.<sup>8</sup>

#### **Ala2. William Fredrick Gilbert Jr. (1941-2019)**

William Fredrick Gilbert Jr. (1941-2019) was born February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1945 at St. Francis Medical Center in Maryville, Mo to **Mildred Jarvis (1915-2006)** and **William Fredrick Gilbert Sr. (1912-1992)**.<sup>9</sup> William had two older sisters, Ruth and Patricia Gilbert as well as a younger

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<sup>6</sup> Willa "Diane" Gilbert, Interviewed by Mercedes Pankau, October 1st 2019

<sup>7</sup> Ibid

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

brother Timothy Gilbert. William went to elementary and junior high school in the Maryville school system. However, he attended the Horace Mann High School in Northwest Missouri State University, used for prospective teachers to gain experience. William was a star on the football team. He married **Willa Diane Burchett (1945- )** on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 1961 and together they had four children; William, Michelle, Jennifer, and Chandis.

When William was ten he began to have problems walking. They discovered that he had developed Muscular dystrophy. “Muscular dystrophy (MD) is a group of muscle diseases that results in increasing weakening and breakdown of skeletal muscles over time. The disorders differ in which muscles are primarily affected, the degree of weakness, how fast they worsen, and when symptoms begin. Many people will eventually become unable to walk. Some types are also associated with problems in other organs.” according to wikipedia.<sup>10</sup> Although this an inherited disease no one else in the family has carried this disease. There is no cure for this disease and the doctors predicted that he wouldn’t be able to walk within a few years. However, William was healed and able to walk again.

William also had other health issues later in life. When he was 58 years old he suddenly lost his vision suddenly while taking a hot shower.<sup>11</sup> It turns out that the blood vessels in his eyes burst which caused him to lose his vision permanently. He had a disease called Macular degeneration. “Macular Degeneration is caused by the deterioration of the central portion of the retina, the inside back layer of the eye that records the images we see and sends them via the optic nerve from the eye to the brain.” According to the American Macular Degeneration

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<sup>10</sup> “Muscular Dystrophy.” Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, September 5, 2019. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muscular\\_dystrophy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muscular_dystrophy).

<sup>11</sup> Willa “Diane” Gilbert, Interviewed by Mercedes Pankau, October 1st 2019

Foundation. William lost all of his frontal vision, however his frontal vision remained. William was forced to adjust to a life without sight.

At the end of his life, William began to lose feeling in his hands and feet. He went to multiple and doctors without being able to find the cause. After going to a specialist, they diagnosed him with Degenerative Disc Disease and was required to have surgery on his neck. After the surgery did not solve the numbness and he contracted pneumonia after complications with the healing process, it was discovered that he was misdiagnosed. The actual cause of his numbness was a softball size tumor on his spine that was cancerous. The cancer that was discovered was late stage and not much could be done. He died in 2019 at the age of 78 in his home. <sup>12</sup>

**Alb1. Shirley Thompson (1937- )**

**Shirley Thompson (1937- )** was at St. Francis Medical Center in Maryville, Mo on August 29th 1937 to **Irene Sollars(1918-2004)** and **Robert Thompson(1916-1991)**.<sup>13</sup> Shirley had one younger sister, Roberta Thompson. Shirley was born and raised in Maryville, Mo. Maryville was where she met her future husband, **Noble Pankau (1933-1992)**.

Shirley and Noble were married on December 27th, 1955 in San Diego, Ca as that was where Noble was currently stationed in the navy<sup>14</sup>. The couple lived in San Diego until 1958. They then moved back to Maryville. They moved to Oregon where they lived from 1968 to 1970. Then moved back to northeast Missouri where Shirley remains to this day. The couple had five children; Robert, Rhonda, Rod, Royce, and Renea Pankau.

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<sup>12</sup> Personal knowledge of Mercedes Pankau

<sup>13</sup> Shirley Pankau, Interviewed by Mercedes Pankau, October 17th 2019

<sup>14</sup> Ibid



Shirley developed Colon Cancer in 1996 at the age of 59. She had to endure a year's worth of chemo treatments. She beat the cancer as it went into remission. It has not reappeared since. She has also had both hips replaced. However, despite some health issues Shirley has continued to work up until the age of 81, just recently stopping.<sup>15</sup>

In Figure 5.16 "Job Satisfaction, by Year and Education" Fischer and Hout illustrate the percentage of satisfaction people have with their jobs based on their based on their level of education from 1970 to 2000. This chart shows that the highest and most constant rate of satisfaction comes from those with a college degree at around 87%. The next highest level of satisfaction is some college and high school diploma at around 85%. The no diploma group was the lowest in satisfaction. by 2000 their satisfaction rate was 75%, which was 10% lower than the next lowest group.<sup>16</sup>

Shirley worked most of her life doing the same three jobs. She was a stay at home mother while raising her children. After that she worked at an Eveready Battery from 1979-1996, which totals to be seventeen years. She was forced to take time off once acquiring colon cancer. She got another job working at the local movie theater and worked there for a total of nineteen. Although her highest form of education was a high school diploma, Shirley still thoroughly enjoyed her jobs. She continued working until she was eighty two because she wanted to not, because she had to. Shirley was raised in an area where a good work ethic was critical. Her employment went beyond that, it was enjoyable. She liked feeling needed and having a sense of purpose.<sup>17</sup>

#### **A1b2. Noble Pankau (1933-1992)**

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<sup>15</sup> Ibid

<sup>16</sup> Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 132

<sup>17</sup> Shirley Pankau, Interviewed by Mercedes Pankau, October 17th 2019

**Noble Pankau (1933-1992)** was born on August 26th 1933 in Sheridan, Mo to **Mavis Ida Milligan(1910-1997)** and **Roy Edward Pankau(1908-1964)**.<sup>18</sup> Noble was the oldest of his five brothers; Max, Donald, Richard, Daniel, and Joseph Pankau. Noble moved to San Diego with navy in 1954 at the age of 21. Noble was a hospital corpsman in the navy was also stationed in Korea during the Korean War, as well as being stationed in San Diego.

<sup>19</sup>Shortly after moving to San diego he married Shirley. The couple had five sons together. At age 59, Noble got the flu with he thought to be the flu. He went to the doctor to get it checked out and the doctor sent him home. Later that day he took a nap to try and help his body heal. He had a heart attack and died that same day. Noble died of atrial fibrillation in 1992.<sup>20</sup>

#### GENERATION FOUR

**A1a1a. Freida Barg (1908-2004)**

**A1a1b. Marvin Burchett (1921-1958)**

**A1a2a. Mildred Jarvis (1915-2006)**

**A1a2b. William Fredrick Gilbert Sr. (1913-1992)**

**A1b1a. Irene Sollars (1918-2004)**

**A1b1b. Robert Thompson (1916-1991)**

**A1b2a. Mavis Ida Milligan (1910-1997)**

**A1b2b. Roy Edward Pankau (1908-1964)**

**A1a1a. Freida Barg (1904-2004)**

Freida was born in Emerson, Ne to Augusta Jager (1886-1931) and Ferdinand Barg (1880-1953). Freida had one older sister, Anna, as well as two younger siblings, Emma and

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<sup>18</sup> Ibid

<sup>19</sup> Ibid

<sup>20</sup> Ibid

Raymond.<sup>21</sup> Her parents were German immigrants and came to the United States with her parents as children. The family moved to a farm in Emerson, which was a predominantly German community.

Freida's grandparents were part of the surge of German to the midwest because of the opportunity the available farmland held. The population of German immigrants throughout America's history are responsible for many important parts of American culture, such as the Christmas tree, hamburgers, and hot dogs. Many German Americans heavily migrated to Midwestern cities such as Omaha, Ne. By 1910 57% of the population of Omaha was made up of German Americans. However, half of the German Americans that settled in rural areas, which included Freida grandparents.<sup>22</sup>

The Norfolk Weekly is a great resource to use to look into life in rural Nebraska. Norfolk is a town about an hour away from Emerson, Ne. It was also founded by German immigrants for the purpose of farming.<sup>23</sup> Daily life would be very similar in both towns. This newspaper could inform about regional news and possible issues specific to German immigrants since the area was predominantly populated with them. It could also inform about news important to the farming community which would include my ancestors.

Freida moved to Maryville, Mo where she met and married Bill Feeny. The marriage did not last, and ended in divorce. She remarried Marvin Burchett in 1944, resulting in her only

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<sup>21</sup> "United States Census, 1910," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MLHD-YLZ> : accessed 27 November 2019), Fridie D Barg in household of Ferdinand H Barg, Emerson, Dakota, Nebraska, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 217, sheet 3B, family , NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 841; FHL microfilm 1,374,854.

<sup>22</sup> "German Americans." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, September 2019. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German\\_Americans#Cities\\_of\\_the\\_Midwest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_Americans#Cities_of_the_Midwest).

<sup>23</sup>"Norfolk, Nebraska." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, November 18, 2019. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norfolk,\\_Nebraska](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norfolk,_Nebraska).

child, Willa. The couple got in a car accident, in which Freida was injured had to spend a great deal of time in the hospital. She had hit her head when the crash occurred, which caused problems with her vision for the rest of her life. Marvin died in 1958, leaving Freida widowed. Freida married one more time, marrying Virgil Barrett in 1962. Once again the marriage ended in divorce.

Later on in her life Freida developed Alzheimer's Disease causing her to slowly lose her memory. She lived independently in her home in Maryville for as long as possible. She eventually moved in with her daughter, Willa, because she could no longer take care of herself. After contracting pneumonia in the hospital after breaking her hip, Freida died in 2004 at the age of ninety six.<sup>24</sup>

#### **Ala1b. Marvin Burchett (1921-1958)**

Marvin Burchett (1921-1958) was born on September 17th, 1920 in Andrew, Missouri to Myrtle Jackson (1894-1954) and Charles Burchett (1891-1958).<sup>25</sup> He married **Freida Barg (1904- 2004)** in 1944 and together they had **Willa Diane Burchett (1945- )**. He died young of a heart ailment in 1958 at the age of thirty seven.<sup>26</sup>

The *St. Joseph Observer* is a newspaper out of St. Joseph, Mo which is about half an hour south of Maryville, Mo This is an area in which at least three generations of my have lived for at least part of their lives. This newspaper could give insight on not only the world events that

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<sup>24</sup> Personal Knowledge of Mercedes Pankau

<sup>25</sup> "United States Census, 1930," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XH6B-LMG> : accessed 27 November 2019), Marvin A Burchett in household of Charles A Burchett, Benton, Andrew, Missouri, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 3, sheet 9B, line 90, family 228, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 1174; FHL microfilm 2,340,909

<sup>26</sup> Willa "Diane" Gilbert, Interviewed by Mercedes Pankau, October 1st 2019

went on in their lifetimes, but historical events that took place in their area and how they were viewed at the time. It could inform about things that affected their everyday life.

#### **A1a2a. Mildred Jarvis (1915-2006)**

**Mildred Jarvis (1915-2006)** was born in Galena, Ks to **Ocie Foster (1887-1960)** and **George Howard Jarvis (1891-1918)**.<sup>27</sup> The family lived in the community of Galena, as her father was a miner. Both my great great Grandfather, George Howard Jarvis and his father were miners in Galena, Ks. I was unaware they were part of the surge in population of over thirty thousand people who lived in Galena while the mines were open. I also found out they were part of the *Galena Mining and Smelting Company*. The town of Galena was created by this company for miners that was originally going to be called Cornwall.<sup>28</sup>

Baxter Springs was another mining community in Cherokee County that was similar to Galena so it dealt with many of the same issues. *The Baxter Springs News* kept people in Cherokee County informed about news world going on around the world as well as news specific to the area. It could give an inside look into what my ancestors who lived and breathed mining experienced. For example, an article from the Baxter Springs News discusses the responsibility of the community to maintain sanitary conditions to prevent further deaths in the mining community. This article suggested that all garbage must be properly disposed of, making sure drinking water was clean, and making sure that cows were clean as not to contaminate the milk.<sup>29</sup> Unfortunately, both George Howard Jarvis and his father passed away from complications due to

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<sup>27</sup> "United States Census, 1930," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XC7B-35D> : accessed 27 November 2019), Mildred Jarvis in household of Dick Wallace, Dale, Kay, Oklahoma, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 12, sheet 7A, line 10, family 146, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 1908; FHL microfilm 2,341,642.

<sup>28</sup> "Galena, Kansas." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 21 Nov. 2019, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galena,\\_Kansas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galena,_Kansas).

<sup>29</sup> "First Aid in the Home." *Baxter Springs News*. September 13 2019

health complications caused by mining.<sup>30</sup> My family left the area before the mine closed down, due to my great great grandmother being left to take care of a family by herself.

Mildred's mother remarried several times eventually moving to Maryville, Mo. In Maryville Mildred met and married **William Fredrick Gilbert Sr.(1912-1992)** on October 8th 1934.<sup>31</sup> While living in Maryville the couple had four children Ruth Gilbert, Patricia Gilbert, William Fredrick Gilbert Jr., and Timothy Gilbert. The couple later decided to move to California. After William passed away in 1992, she decided to move to Texas to be closer to their son. That is where she resided until she passed away in 2006, at the age of 91.

#### **Ala2b. William Fredrick Gilbert Sr. (1913-1992)**

**William Fredrick Gilbert Sr. (1913-1992)** was born in Martinsville, Mo on December 7th, 1913 to Golda Seals (1860-1918) and Fredrick Columbus Gilbert (1892-1962)<sup>32</sup>. He married Mildred Jarvis in 1934<sup>33</sup>. Together, the couple had four children. He was born and raised in Maryville, Mo, but he and his wife moved to California where he lived out the rest of his life. William was also a member of the navy. He was a cook on a ship in Honolulu, Hi shortly after pearl harbor.<sup>34</sup>

#### **Alb1a. Irene Sollars (1918-2004)**

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<sup>30</sup> Willa "Diane" Gilbert, Interviewed by Mercedes Pankau, October 1st 2019

<sup>31</sup>"Missouri, County Marriage, Naturalization, and Court Records, 1800-1991," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:WP3L-692M> : 1 October 2019), Mildred Beatrice Jarvis in entry for William Fredrick Gilbert, 8 Oct 1934; citing Marriage, Nodaway, Missouri, United States, Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City; FHL microfilm 007516261.

<sup>32</sup> "Iowa, Delayed Birth Records, 1850-1939," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q246-5CN7> : accessed 27 November 2019), William Frederick Gilbert, 07 Dec 1912, Mystic, Appanoose, Iowa, United States; citing reference ID 342075, State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines; FamilySearch digital folder 101715036.

<sup>33</sup> "Missouri, County Marriage, Naturalization, and Court Records, 1800-1991," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:WP3L-692M> : 1 October 2019), Mildred Beatrice Jarvis in entry for William Fredrick Gilbert, 8 Oct 1934; citing Marriage, Nodaway, Missouri, United States, Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City; FHL microfilm 007516261

<sup>34</sup> Willa "Diane" Gilbert, Interviewed by Mercedes Pankau, October 1st 2019

**Irene Sollars(1918-2004)** was born in 1918 in Skidmore, Mo to **Maude May Kelley (1885-1945)** and **William Boston Sollars (1880-1940)**. Irene had an older sister Vera, and an older brother brother Ralph.<sup>35</sup> Irene was born with a mutation that caused her to be born without a hand. Irene married Robert Thompson on October 14th 1935<sup>36</sup> Together the daughter had two daughters Shirley and Roberta Thompson.

**A1b1b. Robert Thompson (1916-1991)**

**Robert Thompson(1916-1991)** was born in January 1916 in Skidmore, Mo to **Lola Edna Hilsenbeck (1894-1975)**and **James Thompsn (1885-1977)**.<sup>37</sup> Robert hand an older brother, Donald Thompson, and a younger sister Beatrice Thompson. He married Irene Sollars in 1934. Together the pair had two daughters.

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<sup>35</sup> "United States Census, 1930," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XHNNH-W86> : accessed 27 November 2019), Irene G Sollars in household of William B Sollars, Skidmore, Nodaway, Missouri, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 21, sheet 4A, line 10, family 110, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 1215; FHL microfilm 2,340,950.

<sup>36</sup> Shirley Pankau, Interviewed by Mercedes Pankau, October 17th 2019

<sup>37</sup> Shirley Pankau, Interviewed by Mercedes Pankau, October 17th 2019





GENERATION FIVE

Ala1a1. Augusta Jager (1886-1931)  
Ala1a2. Ferdinand Barg (1880-1953)

Ala1b1. Myrtle Jackson (1894-1954)  
Ala1b2. Charles Burchett(1891-1958)

Ala2a1. Ocie Foster (1887-1960)  
Ala2a2. George Howard Jarvis (1891-1918)

Ala2b1. Golda Seals (1860-1918)  
Ala2b2. Fredrick Columbus Gilbert (1892-1962)

Alb1a1. Maude May Kelley (1885-1945)  
Alb1a2. William Boston Sollars (1880-1940)

Alb1b1. Lola Edna Hilsenbeck (1894-1975)  
Alb1b2. James Thompson (1885-1977)

Alb2a1. Amanda Melvina Whilhite (1879-1947)  
Alb2a2. Harvey Elmer Milligan (1878-1947)

Alb2b1. Ida Bell Heller (1881-1972)  
Alb2b2. Kasmer F. Pankau (1864-1950)