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The Family History of Casey Christall

Casey Christall

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Recommended Citation

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The Family History of
Casey R. Christall
28 April 2020

Casey R. Christall authored this family history as part of the course requirements for HIST 550/700 Your Family in History offered online in Spring 2020 and was submitted to the Pittsburg State University **Digital Commons**. Please contact the author directly with any questions or comments:
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GENERATION ONE

Casey Ryan Christall (1994-) was born at Abilene Region Hospital in Abilene, Texas, on July 14, 1994, to **Craig Howell Christall (1962-)** and **Tammy Lynn Barkis (1967-)**. The original due date for Casey was July 11, so Tammy was ready to deliver. Tammy went to work but set an appointment with the doctor on July 14 to see when she could have the baby. At the appointment, the doctor asked Tammy, “Want to have the baby today?” Of course, Tammy was ready, and hours later, at 3 in the afternoon, Casey was brought into the world weighing in at six pounds, six ounces. There were no problems with the birth, and Casey could go home just days after being delivered.¹

Growing up in Abilene, Texas was good for Casey, it was not too big nor too small. In 1994, the population in Abilene, Texas, was 107,583.² Though, it would continue to grow as Casey was growing up. Casey was an average child, he loved playing with his older brother, **Clayton Leddy Duncan (1987-)**, and he loved watching his favorite Disney movie *Toy Story*. He wore his Woody costume while watching the movie every time he came home from daycare.³ After the birth of his younger sister, **Taylor Nicole Christall (1998-)**, Casey’s parents realized they needed to move into a bigger house. The house they decided on was on the other side of Abilene, and shortly afterward, Casey began elementary school.

Casey would begin kindergarten at Austin Elementary, just blocks away from the new house. Kindergarten was a nerve-racking experience for Casey. He did not have many friends going into elementary, so there was an adjustment period.⁴ The adjustment did not take long because he would eventually make friends in his class. His list of friends would continue to grow when he transitioned into first grade. First grade was a significant turn for Casey. He was making friends, and he was doing well academically, but after first grade, things took a dramatic turn for Casey.

¹ Tammy Christall, interview with Casey Christall, 18 Feb 2020

² Wikipedia contributors, "Abilene, Texas," Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Abilene,_Texas&oldid=941636047 (accessed February 17, 2020).

³ Personal knowledge of the author, Casey Christall, 2020.

⁴ Ibid.

Everything started normally for Casey in second grade. He had many friends, and he was a bright student. However, in the middle of second grade, Casey had an outburst that would send him to another school. The Austin Elementary administration decided to send Casey to an alternative school for students that could not be in the “general population.” Casey’s parents were heartbroken that their son, who had no previous outbursts before, had to be sent off to another school. Casey was leaving behind all his friends that he made. He now had to deal with transitioning into yet another school.

The Sam Houston Achievement Center would be the school that Casey would attend from the middle of second grade all way to the end of fourth grade. The staff and administration made a special connection with Casey. He continued to be a bright student and even wowed the teachers with his impressive knowledge of history. With the help of the great staff and administration, Casey would be able to control his outbursts and slowly transitioned into attending Austin Elementary again.

Once fifth grade started, Casey again had difficulty adjusting. All his friends that he had made previously had made new friends and seemed to ignore Casey. Casey was beginning to feel like an outcast and began to have more episodes of yelling and now throwing objects. Once again, Casey went back to the Sam Houston Achievement Center, where he would continue his education until seventh grade. During his second time back, Casey and the staff worked on talking about his problems instead of bottling up his emotions. Casey made massive progress, and the staff and administration agreed that Casey should start eighth grade at Madison Middle School. This time around, Casey had matured and was able to control his frustration better. Casey was ready to show everyone that he could be a well-behaved teenager.

Claude S. Fischer, in his book, *Made in America*, discusses the theme of mentality and how it has changed over generations. Americans have become more self-aware and have taken control of themselves as time as passed.⁵ When Casey became self-aware, he realized that his aggressiveness came from him

⁵ Claude S. Fischer, *Made In America; A Social History of American Culture and Character* (Chicago & London: The University of Chicago Press, 2010), 195.

thinking he could never change himself.⁶ From then on, Casey had the mentality of being the best person he could be and changed his attitude for the better.

Madison Middle School was a scary experience for Casey. New faces, new teachers, and a new building layout put a lot of pressure on Casey to be as calm as possible. Remembering how to control his frustration, Casey successfully made it through eighth grade. Along the way, Casey expanded his knowledge of history and continued to shine in all subjects. Before the end of the school year, Abilene Cooper's Air Force ROTC unit made a trip to Madison Middle School to recruit for the incoming freshmen. Casey was impressed with the presentation, the uniforms, and the discipline displayed with the cadets. Casey decided to join the ROTC unit at Abilene Cooper High School. Although Casey did not know it at the time, ROTC would be one of the best decisions he has made in his life.⁷

High school for Casey was full of happiness, friends, and opportunities. Casey was happy for the first time in a long time. He no longer had to worry about his episodes because he had no reason to be upset. His happiness stemmed from the friends he had made while in high school and ROTC. ROTC had become a second family for Casey. His success in school stemmed from the love and support from his ROTC friends and his family. With the love and support, Casey was elected to the title of Cadet Colonel and commanded of the ROTC unit the second semester of his senior year. After a successful run as Corps Commander, Casey relinquished his command and prepared for graduation.

Before graduating high school, Casey had already planned to join the military, but he still wanted to attend college. Luckily, just ninety miles away from Abilene was Angelo State University, located in San Angelo, Texas. Angelo State University had its own Air Force ROTC unit, where at the end of the program, cadets are commissioned as officers in the Air Force. Casey got accepted into Angelo State months before graduation, so his heart was set on going to Angelo State and be in the ROTC program.

⁶ Personal knowledge of the author, Casey Christall, 2020.

⁷ Ibid.

After graduating, Casey began to have second thoughts on joining the ROTC program. He wanted to attend Angelo State, but instead of ROTC, he wanted to focus on something that he has always loved: history.

All summer Casey was anxious to start a new chapter of his life, but he could not bring himself to tell his parents he did not want to do ROTC. It took months into the school year before he finally told them anything. His parents were not upset because it was something he loved, and they would support him no matter what he did in life. With the weight lifted off his shoulders, Casey was able to focus on his studies and did very well academically during his freshman year.

During Casey's freshmen year, he met the most important woman in his life. Casey had met **Emily Megan McDurmitt (1993-)** through a mutual friend and realized a day later, they had the same history class. Although they would not date until their sophomore year of college, they had spent time together in their history study group. Casey was interested in Emily, but he was already in a relationship and did not want to be unfaithful to his current girlfriend. At the beginning of Casey's sophomore year, he had become a single man and began to see Emily a lot more than just doing their study group. He was falling head over heels for Emily and wanted to be more than friends. It took being invited to a wedding as a guest with Emily before he finally asked, "Do you want to be the Robin to my Batman?"⁸

Sophomore year was another successful year for Casey. He again did well in his studies, got to study abroad in Italy during Spring Break, and got to spend time with Emily. Life was going great for Casey, and he was ready to take another big step. At Angelo State, juniors can live off-campus in a house or apartment. Casey and Emily had discussed the idea of getting an apartment together before summer had started. However, both sets of parents were not too thrilled, having both their kids living together and only been dating less than eight months. After weeks of convincing both parents, they finally gave their blessings, and in the middle of the summer, Casey and Emily were living in their first apartment together.

⁸ Ibid.

Junior year for Casey was an exciting year. He was taking upper-level history courses, he was planning his future after graduating from college, and he was working as a Shift Manager for Freebirds World Burrito. Casey and Emily had also adopted two cats from their local PetSmart; one was a black cat named Brutus and the other was an orange cat named Caesar. Emily got to pick the cats, and Casey got to name them. Being a history major, Casey found it appropriate to give the cats historical names. Casey had everything, an apartment with the women he loved, two loving and sometimes annoying cats, and his success in school. Casey was now ready to begin his senior year and graduate with his bachelor's in history.

Casey was nervous during his senior year. He was taking sixteen hours to ensure he graduated on time, and he had challenging upper-level history courses. One of Casey's courses, "Dictatorship and Democracy," required that he write a twenty-page paper over "Dictatorships and how America responded." Casey was overwhelmed with all the work he was assigned, and he was working close to forty hours a week. This did not, however, discourage Casey into doing the best he could. Casey's hard work paid off because, in May of 2016, he would graduate with his degree in history. Due to Casey's hard work and dedication, he was selected to the Dean's Lists, which is for students who have maintained a 3.25 GPA for the semester. After graduation, Emily and Casey began planning their next move. They decided they would move to the Dallas-Fort Worth area so Casey could look for teaching positions, and Emily could focus on getting her dental assisting license.

Casey would have to wait another year before he was teaching high school. In the meantime, Casey and Emily began working at Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers to make money while they lived with Emily's parents. It was a stressful time for both Casey and Emily. They both wanted to be working in their dream jobs, but it could not come soon enough. Even with all the stress, Casey focused on the future with Emily. After being together for three years, it was time for Casey to pop the question. Casey asked for the blessing of both Emily's parents, and they gave Casey Emily's grandmother's engagement ring to propose to Emily. Also, Emily's parents had gifted Casey and Emily a trip to Disney World as part of a graduation gift. Disney World would be the perfect destination for the proposal.

Casey and Emily left for Disney World on New Year's Day of 2017. Casey was anxious to pop the question but planned to ask a later in the trip. Although he planned on the fourth day to ask the question, Casey could not wait and asked Emily on the third day. Being proposed to in front of Cinderella's Castle at Magic Kingdom for Emily was a dream come true. Casey's proposal brought Emily to tears as onlookers gathered around to see this magical moment. Emily immediately said, "Yes!" and the roar of the crowd was deafening. Casey and Emily, college sweethearts, were engaged to be married, but for now, they both wanted to focus on their careers.

Once he was back from Disney World, Casey began to seek employment with a high school for a history teaching position. After attending a job fair in summer 2017, Casey got an interview with West Mesquite High School, located in Mesquite, Texas. During the interview, Casey discussed his philosophy of teaching and what he wanted to accomplish in his first year as an educator. The principle was impressed and offered Casey not only the World History position but also the AP and PreAP World History classes. Casey was excited that he was now living out his dream job of teaching. Casey and Emily could now look to move into their apartment and begin planning their wedding.

Casey's first year teaching was a little rocky, as is common with most first-year teachers. However, this did not stop Casey from finishing his first year strong. Casey learned a lot from his first-year teaching and made some changes to how he taught. Casey was happy but to Casey, there was something missing. The idea of obtaining his master's degree loomed over him during his time teaching. Most of his coworkers had their masters or were working their master's degree. Casey wanted to go back to school, but he was not sure he could balance his life between teaching and obtaining his master's degree. It was a hard decision to make, but Casey decided to leave West Mesquite High School to begin his journey on obtaining his master's degree in history.

Saying goodbye to all his coworkers and students was very hard for Casey. He had made a special connection with everyone and wanted to see everyone be successful, but Casey knew if he wanted that success, he would have moved on too. After two years of teaching, Casey was ready to advance his career as a historian and began to apply for master's degree programs. The graduate school that caught Casey's

eye was Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kansas. Affordability was a significant factor when applying for graduate school. Since Casey was no longer a teacher, he was anxious about having to pay for school. However, after researching, Pitt State had affordable tuition and offered a master's degree in history that could be obtained online. Casey immediately applied to the master's program and waited anxiously. For now, Casey was ready to be married.

Casey and Emily were engaged longer than they would have wished, but they were both working on their career, so they did not want to rush the wedding. They both decided on a date and the venue. On September 21, 2019, at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens, Casey and Emily were officially married in front of their friends and family. They spent the night enjoying a delicious meal at *Texas De Brazil*, surrounded by their loved ones. A few weeks later, Casey got a letter in the mail from Pitt State. Casey was accepted into the master's program.

Today, Casey is enjoying life as a husband and a graduate student. He is currently back working at Raising Cane's while he is in school. Emily and Casey are as happy as ever and are planning on purchasing a house. Next, they will start growing their family.

GENERATION TWO

A1a. Tammy Lynn Barkis (1967-)

A1b. Craig Howell Christall (1963-)

Tammy Lynn Barkis (1967-) was born on June 8, 1967, in San Angelo, Texas, to **Edna Gertrude Poirier (1947-2017)** and **Pete Kenneth Barkis (1945-2015)**. Tammy was a premature baby weighing in at four pounds five ounces. Her original due date was a month later July 4, 1967. Because Tammy was born a month early, she spent an additional ten days in the hospital. Tammy grew up alongside her sister, **Tina Louise Barkis (1966-)** and brother, **Rodney Frank Barkis (1972 -)**. Tammy and her siblings grew up in a small, modest house surrounded by neighbor kids. She loved to play outside with her friends riding bicycles and playing games. Her family did not have a lot of money, but they always had enough food and plenty of clothes.⁹

Tammy's parents were fortunate enough to send all three kids to Catholic School located in downtown San Angelo. However, after Edna and Pete divorced, all three siblings were sent to public school. Public school was scary for Tammy because she did not know anyone at school except for one girl whose father worked with her father.¹⁰ Soon after, Tammy transitioned into Lake View High School, where she should be part of the pep squad and was an officer in her senior year of student council. Both groups would be beneficial for Tammy to make friends and to be a part of a school organization that gets individuals together instead of having individualist students. This is similar to what Claude S. Fischer states in his book, *Made in America*: groups in America have become part of American society as America as developed over the last few hundred years. Instead of being independent of themselves, Americans have now become dependent on the groups they formed or joined.¹¹

⁹ Tammy Christall, interview with Casey Christall. 20 Feb 2020.

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Fischer, *Made in America*, 59-94.

After graduating high school in 1985, Tammy married **Sammie Lynn Duncan (1965-2013)**. Two years later, Tammy and Sammie welcomed their first-born son into the world, **Clayton Leddy Duncan (1987-)**. Unfortunately, the marriage would not last, and in 1991 Tammy and Sammie were divorced. Tammy kept majority custody of Clayton, but Sammie saw Clayton anytime he pleased. A year went by before Tammy found love again. While working at Trimble Batjer Insurance Company, Tammy had made friends with **Carin Denise Christall (1965-)**. Carin introduced Tammy to her brother, **Craig Howell Christall (1963-)**, and on April 11, 1992, Tammy and Craig were married.¹²

Craig Howell Christall (1963-) was born on December 28, 1963, in Del Rio, Texas, to **Betty - Jo Black (1941-)** and **Bobby Allen Christall (1945-)**. He grew up with his brother, **Bobby Christall Jr. (1958-)**, and his three sisters, **Sherri Gail Christall (1960-)**, **Judy Catherine Christall (1961-)**, and **Carin Denise Christall (1965-)**. Del Rio was a perfect city for Craig to grow up. There were plenty of activities and children to play with in the neighborhood. Del Rio had a high population because of Laughlin Air Force Base. Laughlin was established in 1940, just after the start of World War II and would become one of the busiest pilot-training schools in the United States.¹³ Craig's life in Del Rio would come to an end after his first-grade year. His parents had decided to move back to his mother's hometown, Fort Stockton, Texas.

Fort Stockton, Texas, is located three hours Northwest of Del Rio with a considerably low population compared to Del Rio. Though this would have been disappointing, Craig immediately made friends and began playing his favorite sport: baseball. Craig recalled, "Every night there was a ball game. Although we lived in a small town, baseball brought the kids and even adults out to enjoy the game and have a good time."¹⁴ Baseball is an activity that Craig loved to play, watch, and listen to on the radio. Craig's favorite team is the Texas Rangers, and his favorite player was the legendary pitcher Nolan Ryan. Craig

¹² "Texas Marriages, 1966-2010," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VTLH-6HG> : 6 December 2014), Craig H Christall and Tammy Barkis, 11 Apr 1992; citing Tom Green, Texas, United States, certificate number 034880, Vital Statistics Unit, Texas Department of State Health Services, Austin.

¹³ Wikipedia contributors, "Del Rio, Texas," Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Del_Rio,_Texas&oldid=945647351 (accessed March 1, 2020).

¹⁴ Craig Christall, interview with Casey Christall, 25 Feb 2020

preferred to play catcher or play in the outfield. His passion for baseball would follow him as he began high school.

Baseball had made a big impression on Craig. So much so that he played for the Fort Stockton Panthers baseball team his freshmen and sophomore. Craig also ran track and played football in high school. Craig was a great athlete, but his baseball coach could see his potential in football and not baseball. His baseball coach convinced him to focus on football and track and drop baseball. Craig agreed, and by his sophomore year, he focused all his time and energy on school and football. Before he knew it, Craig graduated from Fort Stockton high school in 1981.

After graduating, Craig moved to Stephenville, Texas, where he attended Tarleton State University. He did not declare a major but knew he wanted to be an agriculture teacher. College was tough for Craig financially because his parents did not make enough money to pay for his education. Instead, Craig paid for his first semester of college, and his parents promised to pay for the second semester. Although everything worked out financially during his first semester, Craig saw his parents struggling to make ends meet. As a result, Craig did not return his second semester and decided to return home to Fort Stockton. From here, Craig went to work for a company that sold drilling equipment.

Years later, in 1988, Craig was employed by Avfuel, a jet fueling, and supplies company, that he continues to work today. Working at Avfuel let him travel around Texas and the United States. The home office for Avfuel is in Michigan, so he was continually going north and other various places. Craig was also traveling frequently between San Angelo and Abilene, Texas. Working in San Angelo allowed Craig the opportunity to meet his future wife, **Tammy Lynn Barkis (1967-)**. Eventually, a permanent Avfuel office building opened in Abilene, so Tammy and Craig bought a house.

The first house they bought in Abilene was on Siemann's Way. It was a lovely little house in a nice quiet neighborhood. Due to its proximity to the Abilene Zoo, every morning, you could hear the lions roar from inside the house. Although Siemann's Way was a nice and comfortable house, Tammy and Craig decided to move to a bigger house because their family was growing. They moved to a house on

Ivanhoe Lane and lived there for thirteen years. Eventually, in 2012 they moved out to Tuscola, Texas, a suburb of Abilene.

In the book, *Century of Difference* in Figure 7.3 “Distribution of Population Across Types of Places,” authors Claude Fischer and Michael Hout show the movement of Americans from the countryside to towns, suburbs, and metropolitan areas in the last century. From 1900 to 2000, the percentage of Americans living in the country decreased dramatically as towns and cities expanded. The expansion brought new opportunities for work, and thus, families left the country to find better work and a better life. As families moved into the towns, towns became cities, and the surrounding countryside became their suburbs. At the beginning of the century, two-thirds of Americans lived outside of metropolitan areas. By the end of the century, only one-fifth of Americans lived outside metropolitan areas.¹⁵

Craig and Tammy are following what this chart suggests. The suburbs have become increasingly popular throughout the last century. The suburbs of Abilene have continued to grow around Craig and Tammy. New neighborhoods have been built as a result of the growing population in Abilene and the housing market. Craig and Tammy plan to continue to live in the suburbs because they are happy with everything they have.¹⁶

¹⁵ Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 173.

¹⁶ Tammy and Craig Christall, interview with Casey Christall, 12 March 2020.

GENERATION THREE

A1a1. Edna Gertrude Poirier (1947-2017)

A1a2. Pete Kenneth Barkis (1945-2015)

A1b1. Betty Jo Black (1941-)

A1b2. Bobby Allen Christall (1938-)

Edna Gertrude Poirier (1947-2017) was born on March 28, 1947, in Lewiston, Maine, to **Eva E. Charest (1906-1987)** and **Rodolphe Poirier (1906-1945)**. Edna grew up with her brother, **Albert Poirier (1938-)**, and her sister **Constance Poirier (1935-)**. Unfortunately for the Poirier family, Rodolphe passed away in December 1945, just months before the birth of Edna. Her mother did not remarry, so she raised her children in an upstairs apartment as a single mother.¹⁷ Being that Edna's family came from the province of Quebec in Canada, she only spoke French until a boy and his family moved next door.

An English-speaking family moved next door to Edna when she was younger. She could not communicate well with the boy in the family, but over the next few years, she was able to learn English, and she taught him French. These skills are essential as children grow and develop. Developing her language skills helped Edna assimilate into American society. With her newly developed English skills, Edna enjoyed her life surrounded by friends and her family. She also shared a special relationship with her Aunt Gertrude, with whom she shares her middle name.

Before Edna knew it, she graduated from Edward Little High School in 1964. Shortly afterward, in the same year, Edna met her first husband, **Pete Kenneth Barkis (1945-2015)**. Pete stayed at a naval base, just a short drive from Lewiston. Shortly after meeting, Pete and Edna were married on July 10, 1965. Pete had just been discharged from the Navy and took Edna with him back to San Angelo, Texas, where he was living before he was drafted into the Navy. Edna was sad to say goodbye to her friends and family but knew this was a new beginning for her and her soon-to-be family.

¹⁷ Tammy Christall, interview with Casey Christall. 23 Feb 2020.

Edna and Pete decided on a nice little house in a nice neighborhood on Spaulding street in San Angelo. After moving into their newly purchased home, Edna and Pete began starting their family. Edna would work at various offices working as a secretary to support her family, whereas Pete worked as a mechanic at various shops around San Angelo. Edna would give birth to three beautiful children; however, after 13 years of marriage, Edna and Pete were divorced on January 5, 1978.¹⁸

Half a year later, Edna married the love of her life, **Archie "Al" Smith (1943-)**, on September 1, 1978. Much like Pete, Al was drafted into the Army, where he served in Vietnam from 1968-1969. Al had made a special connection with Edna's children, and they knew Al was the right man for her. They continued to live on Spaulding, watching their children grow up and graduate and began a family of their own. They loved spending time with their grandchildren by taking them to see the San Angelo Outlaws and the San Angelo Saints hockey teams. They also enjoyed having the grandchildren over in the summers and going camping.

By 2013, Al had already retired, and Edna had just retired from bookkeeping. During this time, Al and Edna decided to move out of the Spaulding house and move into a retirement community. After living in the same house for 40 years, Al and Edna moved into their new house in a retirement community. Retirement went well for Al and Edna until 2015 when Edna was diagnosed with lung cancer. The whole family was shocked and saddened but knew Edna would put up the biggest fight cancer had seen. Unfortunately, it did not turn out his way because, by 2016, the cancer was now in her brain. The doctor only gave her months to live. On January 22, 2017, Edna passed away, surrounded by her children and friends. Edna is buried at the Lawnhaven Memorial Gardens in San Angelo, where she waits for her beloved Al.¹⁹

¹⁸ "Texas Divorce Index, 1968-2010," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VYXF-4JQ> : 12 December 2014), Pete K Barkis and Edna G Barkis, 05 Jan 1978; from "Texas, Divorce Index, 1968-2011," database, Ancestry (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 2005); citing Tom Green, Texas, United States, certificate number 004126, Texas Department of State Health Services.

¹⁹ Find a Grave, database and images (<http://www.findagrave.com>; accessed 1 March 2020), memorial page for Edna Poirier Smith (28 Mar 1946–22 Jan 2017), Find a Grave Memorial no. 175668638, citing Lawnhaven Memorial Gardens, San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas, USA ; Maintained by Don (contributor 47104708) .

Pete Kenneth Barkis (1945-2015) was born on September 22, 1945, in Pecos, Texas, to **Addie Rose Seidemann (1902-1977)** and **Pete Frank Barkis (1896-1973)**. Pete grew up as the youngest and only boy along with his four sisters, **Helen Barkis (1926-2002)**, **Agnes Barkis (1928-2010)**, **Xena Barkis (1930-)**, and **Suzanne Barkis (1942-2019)**. Pete and his sisters were raised in a Catholic household and lived a good and normal life. Pete enjoyed playing with the neighborhood kids and just enjoyed life. Pete went on to graduate from Fort Stockton High School.

After high school, Pete enlisted in the Navy, where he worked as a ship mechanic. Pete was stationed in Maine when he met his first wife, Edna. Shortly after meeting and marrying Edna, Pete was discharged from the Navy and moved back to San Angelo, Texas, where he would start his family with Edna. Pete quickly found a job working as an automobile mechanic to provide for his newly formed family. Pete had two daughters and one son. Unfortunately, Pete and Edna's marriage did not last, and they divorced in 1978.

After the divorce, it did not take long for Pete to find love again. Pete married **Vicki Jones (1957-)** just a month after being divorced on February 6, 1978.²⁰ Together, Pete and Vicki had one daughter, **Stacy Jo Barkis (1979-)**. However, just like the previous marriage, things did not work out, and by 1980, Pete and Vicki had filed for divorce. Again, it did not take Pete long to find love because, a year later, on August 12, 1981, Pete married **Deborah Owen (1960-)**.²¹ A month after getting married, Pete and Deborah welcomed their only child and son, **Brad Barkis (1981-)**. Pete and Deborah would be married for 16 years before divorcing in July 1997. Pete would never remarry again.

By the end of the 1990s, Pete had retired early because of his bad hip and knees. After working as a mechanic for most of his life, Pete's hip and knees had lots of wear and tear. He endured many surgeries through the 1990s to the 2010s. His hip and knees never made a full recovery and were constantly in pain.

²⁰ "Texas Marriages, 1966-2010," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VTKM-S1F> : 6 December 2014), Pete K Barkis and Vicki D Jones, 06 Feb 1978; citing Tom Green, Texas, United States, certificate number 014263, Vital Statistics Unit, Texas Department of State Health Services, Austin.

²¹ "Texas Marriages, 1966-2010," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VYM3-W43> : 6 December 2014), Pete K Barkis and Deborah L Owen, 12 Aug 1981; citing Tom Green, Texas, United States, certificate number 117908, Vital Statistics Unit, Texas Department of State Health Services, Austin.

In 2015, Pete became very sick and had lung issues. Unfortunately, Pete developed a septic infection and passed away on January 23, 2015. Pete is buried at the Calvary Cemetery in San Angelo, Texas.²²

Betty Jo Black (1941-) was born on May 9, 1941, in Pecos, Texas, to **Ida Minnie (1908-1999)** and **Pickney Howell Black (1905-1984)**. Betty grew up with her sister **Georgia Francine Black (1946-)** and her two brothers **James Wayne Black (1934-2005)**, **John Howell Black (1948-1986)**. Betty and her family moved to Fort Stockton as her father worked as a butcher at Boatman's Grocery Store. Living in Fort Stockton was great for Betty. Betty recalled growing up in Fort Stockton has "a wonderful place to grow up. It was a quiet and simple town where children played in the streets and enjoyed life. Our neighborhood was like a big family."²³

Neighborhoods are great examples of public spaces, as mentioned in *Made in America* by Claude Fischer. There are different types of spaces in public spacing, but one that fits neighborhoods very well is parochial spaces. Parochial spaces are between public and private spaces and are mainly for acquaintances and friends. Examples of parochial include neighborhoods, cul-de-sacs, churches, and clubs. Today, however, public spaces have become increasingly absent because of isolation and mistrust between people. Most Americans prefer a small network of friends and family.²⁴

When Betty was younger, she lived at the jailhouse in Fort Stockton. Betty's father worked as a Deputy Sheriff for Sheriff Charlie Baker.²⁵ As Deputy Sheriff, Pickney oversaw the local jailhouse where his family would live downstairs. Betty and her family called the jailhouse home for eight years. Betty recalled the jailhouse as "a wonderful place to live. I had sleepovers with my friends, and I always helped my mother take meals to the inmates upstairs. Every time I drive by the jailhouse today, I get to see my home."²⁶

²² Find a Grave, database and images (<http://www.findagrave.com>; accessed 1 March 2020), memorial page for Pete Kenneth "Kenny" Barkis (22 Sep 1945–23 Jan 2015), Find a Grave Memorial no. 157870966, citing Calvary Catholic Cemetery, San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas, USA ; Maintained by Don (contributor 47104708) .

²³ Betty Christall, interview with Casey Christall. 1 April 2020.

²⁴ Fischer, *Made in America*, 161-194

²⁵ Betty Christall, interview with Casey Christall, 1 April 2020.

²⁶ Ibid

Years later, Betty met **Bobby Allen Christall (1938-)** and married him in May 1957. Betty and Bobby had five children together. Betty followed Bobby around Texas as he worked in various professions, eventually landing a position laying pipe in Pecos, Texas.²⁷ Betty wanted to move back to Fort Stockton to be closer to Bobby while he worked. In 1968, Betty moved her children with her to Fort Stockton, where they would grow up eventually move out. Once the children were out of the house, Betty and Bobby enjoyed spending time together traveling. Unfortunately, in September 1999, Bobby and Betty divorced. Betty would not remarry. Today, Betty lives in Fort Stockton, where she loves to quilt and knit with her long-time friends and family.

Bobby Allen Christall (1938-) was born on December 18, 1938, in Del Rio, Texas, to **Winnie Mae Watson (1907-1998)** and **George T. Christall (1903-1969)**. Bobby had two sisters, **Nina June Christall (1926-1928)** and **Marjorie Mae Christall (1933-?)** and two brothers, **George Thomas Christall (1928-1945)** and **Kenneth Dale Christall (1934-2005)**. There is not a lot of information about Bobby's childhood, but he worked as a heavy equipment operator for most of his life.²⁸ Bobby would marry **Betty Jo Black (1941-)** in 1957 and have five children together. Bobby left the family in 1999 and married a woman named Carol Brown.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Craig Christall, interview with Casey Christall. 12 March 2020

GENERATION FOUR

A1a1a. Eva E. Charest (1906-1987)

A1a1b. Rodolphe Poirier (1906-1945)

A1a2a. Addie Rose Seidemann (1902-1977)

A1a2b. Pete Frank Barkis (1896-1973)

A1b1a. Ida Minnie (1908-1999)

A1b1b. Pinkney Howell Black (1905-1984)

A1b2a. Winnie Mae Watson (1907-1998)

A1b2b. George T. Christall (1902-1969)

Eva E. Charest (1906-1987) was born on September 1, 1906, in the province of Quebec in Canada to **Dina Cote (1874-1967)** and **Desire Charest (1867-1909)**. Very little is known about Eva's childhood, but she grew up with her five sisters, **Maire Louis Charest (1893-?)**, **Erustine Charest (1896-?)**, **Elise Charest (1897-?)**, **Alice Charest (1901-?)**, **Philippine Charest (1901-?)**, and her brother, **Wilfrid Charest (1898-?)**. Eva immigrated to the United States in the 1920s and settled in Lewiston-Auburn, Maine. Lewiston and Auburn are cities located just across the Androscoggin River from each other. The area is popular for French-Canadian immigrants to settle.²⁹ She was married on October 14, 1929, to **Rodolphe Poirier (1906-1945)**.³⁰ However, after Rodolphe passed away, Eva became a single mother and took care of her children on her own. Eva would never remarry.

In Figure 4.10, "Americans Who Lived Alone, by Age and Gender," the authors display the percentage of men and women who, based on their age, lived alone in the past century. The majority of the men who lived alone did not go above fifteen percent, except for men who were sixty-five or older.

²⁹ Wikipedia contributors, "Lewiston–Auburn," Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Lewiston%E2%80%93Auburn&oldid=891172632> (accessed March 12, 2020).

³⁰ Maine, Marriage Index, 1892-1966, 1977-1996," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KCNC-GHF> : 27 November 2014), Rodolph Poirier and Eva E Charest, 14 Oct 1929; citing Marriage, Maine, United States, State Archives, Augusta.

Women younger than sixty-five were very similar to men. Women who were sixty-five or older, however, had a significant jump from 1940 to 1980 topping thirty-five percent.³¹

By the time, Edna, Eva's youngest daughter, moved out in the 1960s, Eva was living on her own at the age of fifty-nine. Other women were not so lucky. The reason for such a high percentage of women who lived alone over sixty-five can be attributed to World War II, the Korean and Vietnam Wars. This, unfortunately, resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of American soldiers. Thousands of wives lived without husbands, and many never remarried.

Eva lived in Maine for the rest of her life after her children got married and started their families. Eva kept in close contact with Edna and her grandchildren. She called almost every night and attempted to talk with her grandchildren in broken English.³² On November 28, 1987, Eva passed away. She is buried at the Saint Peter's Cemetery in Lewiston, Maine.³³

Rodolphe Poirier (1906-1945) was born in Auburn, Maine, on August 8, 1906, to **Camille St. Hilaire (1885-1936)** and **Auguste Poirier (1881-1958)**. He grew up with his two sisters, **Gertrude Poirier (1916-2013)** and **Noella Poirier (1918-?)** and his brother, **Ovila Poirier (1904-1991)**. Very little information is known about Rodolphe's childhood, but he married the love of his life, **Eva E. Charest (1906-1987)**, and they had three children together. Unfortunately, on December 26, 1945, Rodolphe had a heart attack and passed away. He is buried at the Saint Peters Cemetery in Lewiston, Maine.³⁴

Addie Rose Seidemann (1902-1977) was born on February 5, 1902, in Eula, Texas, to **Henry Theodore Seidemann (1856-1941)** and **Mary Theresa Seimon (1862-1944)**. Addie grew

³¹ Fischer and Hout, *Century of Difference*, 84

³² Tammy Christall, interview with Casey Christall

³³ Find a Grave, database and images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 5 March 2020), memorial page for Eva E Charest Poirier (1906–28 Nov 1987), Find a Grave Memorial no. 121553425, citing Saint Peter's Cemetery, Lewiston, Androscoggin County, Maine, USA ; Maintained by Connie Lagasse Russell (contributor 47359327) .

³⁴ Find a Grave, database and images (<http://www.findagrave.com>: accessed 5 March 2020), memorial page for Rodolphe Poirier (unknown–26 Dec 1945), Find a Grave Memorial no. 121493318, citing Saint Peter's Cemetery, Lewiston, Androscoggin County, Maine, USA ; Maintained by Connie Lagasse Russell (contributor 47359327) .

up with her two sisters, **Elizabeth Dora Seidemann (1896-1935)** and **Mary Arneta Seidemann (1904-1987)** and her five brothers, **Benjamin C. Seidemann (1882-1972)**, **Lawrence Peter Seidemann (1884-1964)**, **Otto Charles Seidemann (1887-1970)**, **William Henry Seidemann (1890-1971)**, and **Edgar Valentine Seidemann (1897-1963)**.

There is little information about Addie's childhood, but she married her husband, **Pete Frank Barkis (1886-1973)**, on February 21, 1922, in Amarillo, Texas. They had four children together. According to the 1940 census, Addie and Pete lived in Fort Stockton, Texas, with three out of their four children.³⁵ The census also showed that Addie and Pete were struggling financially. This financial struggle could be attributed to the Great Depression. According to Margo J. Anderson, in her book, *The American Census*, the 1940 census was the first time the government included socioeconomic questions about American households. The questions were used by the United States government to see the full effects of the Great Depression.³⁶

Addie and family would live in Fort Stockton for many years until they packed up and moved to San Angelo, Texas. While in San Angelo, Addie and Pete watched as their children began their family and watched as their grandchildren grew up. Addie loved spending time with her grandchildren while she knitted and watched her favorite show on TV, the Lawrence Welk Show.³⁷ On November 25, 1977, Addie passed away. She is buried alongside her husband and children at the Calvary Cemetery in San Angelo, Texas.³⁸

³⁵ "United States Census, 1940," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K4SY-JJJ> : 22 December 2019), Pete Barkis, Fort Stockton, Commissioner's Precinct 1, Pecos, Texas, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 186-1B, sheet 3B, line 60, family 66, 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 4122.

³⁶ Margo J. Anderson. *The American Census: A Social History*, Second Ed, (New Haven, USA: Yale University Press, 2015), 180-181

³⁷ Tammy Christall, interview with Casey Christall. 8 March 2020.

³⁸ Find a Grave, database and images (<http://www.findagrave.com>: accessed 7 March 2020), memorial page for Addie Rose Seideman Barkis (5 Feb 1902–25 Nov 1977), Find a Grave Memorial no. 34650493, citing Calvary Catholic Cemetery, San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas, USA ; Maintained by Don (contributor 47104708) .

Pete Frank Barkis (1896-1973) was born on August 22, 1896, in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Not much is known about Pete's parents nor his childhood. Pete was a World War I veteran, and after the war moved to Texas to work on the railroad. While working on the railroad, Pete had his toes cut off in an accident. This caused Pete's equilibrium to be off, so he walked with a cane to balance himself. While working on the railroad, Pete might have read the front page of the *El Paso Herald* detailing a story about a railroad worker strike in 1920. This strike would threaten the food supply in the United States and caused President Woodrow Wilson to get involved.³⁹

Working on the railroad allowed Pete to not only move to Texas but also to meet his wife. They were married in 1922, and together they had four children. He enjoyed tinkering with anything he could get his hands on and loved breakfast for dinner.⁴⁰ On November 23, 1973, Pete suffered a heart attack and passed away. Pete is buried alongside his wife and children at the Calvary Cemetery in San Angelo, Texas.⁴¹

Ida Minnie (1908-1999) was born on December 17, 1908, on the Pima Indian Reservation in Arizona, to **Edna Mary Whittaker (1883-1960)** and **Pinkney Jones Black (1881-1968)**. Ida had a great life growing up on the Reservation, but she developed polio at a young age. The Native Americans on the reservation used a traditional method of burying Ida in the sand to treat her polio. They would keep Ida company by telling stories or singing songs.⁴² Ida never suffered the effects of polio.

Ida finally started school when she was ten years old. She did very well in school and even attended Arizona State at Tempe for two years to become a schoolteacher. Ida met **Pinkney Howell Black (1905-1984)** in 1927 and married him in March 1929 in Lordsburg, New Mexico.⁴³ They moved to Texas, where Pickney worked as a butcher and eventually a Sheriff's Deputy. Ida worked as a housewife.

³⁹ *El Paso Herald*. (El Paso, Tex.), 02 April 1920. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn88084272/1920-04-02/ed-1/seq-1/>>

⁴⁰ Tammy Christall, interview with Casey Christall. 8 March 2020

⁴¹ Find a Grave, database and images (<http://www.findagrave.com>; accessed 7 March 2020), memorial page for Pete Frank Barkis (22 Aug 1896–23 Nov 1973), Find a Grave Memorial no. 34650388, citing Calvary Catholic Cemetery, San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas, USA ; Maintained by Don (contributor 47104708) .

⁴² Betty Christall, interview with Casey Christall. 1 April 2020.

⁴³ Ibid.

She cooked her famous lemon meringue pies and lived a great life. She loved reading murder mysteries, knitting clothes for her children, and crocheting.⁴⁴ Ida passed away in 1999 at the age of 90. She is buried at the East Hill Cemetery in Fort Stockton, Texas.⁴⁵

Pickney Howell Black (1905-1984) was born on April 5, 1905, in Barstow, Texas, to **Mary Thomas Clinglesmith (1881-1911)** and **Paten Hicks Black (1879-1959)**. Pinkney grew up with his older sister **Mattie Pauline Black (1903- ?)**. Unfortunately, when Pickney was six years old, his mother passed away. Pickney spent most of his teens working on the ranch with his father. At the age of twenty, Pickney moved to Arizona, where he worked for the Owl Cigar Company.

While in Arizona, Pickney became good friends with **Ira Hamilton Hayes (1923-1955)**. Ira was one of the six men famously photographed raising the American flag on Iwo Jima during World War II.⁴⁶ Pickney also met his wife, **Ida Minnie (1908-1999)**, while in Arizona. Ira and Ida both lived and grew up on the Pima Reservation. After getting married, Pickney and Ida moved to Grand Falls, Texas. While in Grand Falls, Pickney began working as a butcher at the local grocery store. After Grand Falls, Pickney and his wife moved to Fort Stockton, Texas, in 1938.⁴⁷ Fort Stockton allowed Pickney to be a Sheriff's Deputy and oversee the jailhouse. There was not a lot of crime in Fort Stockton, so Pickney mainly dealt with drunk ranchers on Friday nights. They slept in the jailhouse and were released the next morning with coffee waiting for them provided by Ida.⁴⁸

After working as a Sheriff Deputy for eight years, Pickney had an unsuccessful run as Sheriff and shortly afterward, retired from the Sheriff's Department. Pickney had bad lungs growing up, and it finally caught up with him after he was diagnosed with tuberculosis. Betty recalls, "We were not allowed to touch fathers' dishes from fear that he would spread tuberculosis. Mother always had hot water and

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Find a Grave, database and images (<http://www.findagrave.com>; accessed 1 April 2020), memorial page for Ida Minnie Black (17 Dec 1908–18 Jul 1999), Find a Grave Memorial no. 60582268, citing East Hill Cemetery, Fort Stockton, Pecos County, Texas, USA ; Maintained by Joyce Edgar Phipps (contributor 46805080) .

⁴⁶ Betty Christall, interview with Casey Christall. 1 April 2020.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

bleach for father's silverware."⁴⁹ On November 7, 1984, Pickney passed away from tuberculosis. He is buried at the East Hill Cemetery in Fort Stockton, Texas, alongside his wife.⁵⁰

Winnie Mae Watson (1907-1998) was born on November 9, 1907, in Texas. There is no known information about Winnie, but according to marriage records, Winnie married **George Tucker Christall (1902-1969)** on July 6, 1925.⁵¹ Together, Winnie and George had five children. Though records do not show it, there is reason to believe that Winnie and George might have had a divorce. Winnie passed away on January 8, 1998. She is buried at the Bethesda Cemetery in Hilltop Lakes, Texas.⁵²

George Tucker Christall (1902-1969) was born on October 28, 1902, in Del Rio, Texas. There is no known information about George's parents nor his childhood. George married **Winnie Mae Watson (1907-1998)** in July 1925. According to the 1940 census, George was a contracted driller. However, George and his family were dealing with unemployment at the time.⁵³

In Figure 5.14, "Civilian Unemployment Rate, by Gender, 1900 to 2000," the authors compare the unemployment rate for in the past century. Unemployment in America has been overall constant from 1900 to 2000. However, during the 1930s, unemployment hit a staggering twenty-five percent brought on

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Find a Grave, database and images (<http://www.findagrave.com>: accessed 1 April 2020), memorial page for Pinkney Howell Black (5 Apr 1905–7 Nov 1984), Find a Grave Memorial no. 60582078, citing East Hill Cemetery, Fort Stockton, Pecos County, Texas, USA ; Maintained by Joyce Edgar Phipps (contributor 46805080) .

⁵¹ "Texas, County Marriage Records, 1837-1965," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QV1Z-9H16> : 10 December 2017), George Christell and Winnie Mae Watson, 06 Jul 1925; citing Marriage, citing Val Verde, Texas, United States, Texas State Library, Archives Division, and various Texas county clerks; FHL microfilm 2,031,021.

⁵² Find a Grave, database and images (<http://www.findagrave.com>: accessed 7 March 2020), memorial page for Winnie Mae Watson (9 Nov 1907–8 Jan 1998), Find a Grave Memorial no. 89075502, citing Bethesda Cemetery, Hilltop Lakes, Leon County, Texas, USA ; Maintained by Gary W. Adams (contributor 47094749) .

⁵³ "United States Census, 1940," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K4Q3-57G> : 16 February 2020), Geo T Christal, Del Rio, Justice Precinct 1, Val Verde, Texas, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 233-1B, sheet 61A, line 11, family 4, 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 4154.

by the Great Depression. With the help of President Roosevelt's New Deal Programs, by 1940, unemployment dropped to fifteen percent and would continue to decline up to the 1950s.⁵⁴

The New Deal Programs assisted millions of Americans affected by the worst economic disaster in history. Some, however, were not so lucky in finding employment so soon. It would take years for George to be employed, but he finally became a rancher in South Texas. George worked tirelessly for the rest of his life to provide and ensure a better future for his family.⁵⁵ George passed away on November 18, 1969. He is buried at Westlawn Cemetery in Kerrville, Texas.⁵⁶

⁵⁴ Fischer and Hout, *Century of Difference*, 127

⁵⁵ Craig Christall, interview with Casey Christall, 12 March 2020.

⁵⁶ Find a Grave, database and images (<http://www.findagrave.com>; accessed 7 March 2020), memorial page for George Tucker Christall (28 Oct 1902–14 Nov 1969), Find a Grave Memorial no. 5202494, citing Westlawn Cemetery, Del Rio, Val Verde County, Texas, USA ; Maintained by bobby christall (contributor 39027595) .

GENERATION FIVE

A1a1a1. Dina Cote (1874-1967)

A1a1a2. Desire Charest (1867-1909)

A1a1b1. Camille St. Hilaire (1885-1936)

A1a1b2. Auguste Poirier (1881-1958)

A1a2a1. Mary Theresa Seimon (1862-1944)

A1a2a2. Henry Theodore Seideman (1857-1941)

A1a2b1. unk (-)

A1a2b2. unk (-)

A1b1a1. Edna Mary Whittaker (1883-1960)

A1b1a2. Pinkney Jones Black (1881-1968)

A1b1b1. Mary Thomas Clinglesmith (1881-1911)

A1b1b2. Paten Hicks Black (1879-1959)

A1b2a1. unk (-)

A1b2a2. unk (-)

A1b2b1. Mary Arizona Tucker (1877-1955)

A1b2b2. George T. Christall (1872-1902)

Dina Cote (1874-1967) was born in the province of Quebec in Canada in 1874. Very little information is known about Dina except she married **Desire Charest (1867-1909)**. According to the 1901 Canadian Census, Dina and Desire were living in Lotbiniere, Quebec, Canada, along with their six out of seven children.⁵⁷ Dina passed away in 1967.

Desire Charest (1867-1909) was born in Saint-Flavien, Quebec, Canada, in 1867. There is no known information about Desire except he married **Dina Cote (1874-1967)** and had seven children together. Desire passed away in 1909.

⁵⁷ "Canada Census, 1901," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KH54-LDX> : 16 December 2019), Dena Charest in household of Desireé Charest, Lotbinière, Quebec, Canada; citing p. 7, Library and Archives of Canada, Ottawa.

Camille St. Hilaire (1885-1935) was born in October 1885 in Sants-Anges, Quebec Canada to **Augustin Guerin dit St. Hilaire (1854-1935)** and **Sylvie Vachon dit Pamerlaux (1860-1927)**. Camille grew up with her two sisters, **Diana St. Hilaire (1885-1956)** and **Clara Marie St. Hilaire (1889-1973)**, and her brother **Joseph John St. Hilaire (1889-1954)**. Not much is known about Camille and her childhood, but according to records, she married **Auguste Poirier (1881-1958)** on April 14, 1902, in Lewiston, Maine.⁵⁸ Camille and Auguste had four children together. Camille passed away in 1935.

Auguste Poirier (1885-1954) was born on November 6, 1881 in Saint-Pierre-de-Broughton, Quebec, Canada, to **Constance Vaillancourt (1846-1920)** and **Theophile Poirier (1849-1912)**. Auguste grew up with his seven brothers, **Joseph Poirier (1870-?)**, **Jean Baptiste Philias Poirier (1873-1929)**, **Joseph Stanislas Poirier (1876-1937)**, **Elzear Poirier (1880-1907)**, **Joseph Donat Amedee Poirier (1883-1963)**, **Gaudious Poirier (1885-1955)**, and **Louis Joseph Poirier, a (1887-1955)** and his two sisters, **Marie Poirier (1874-1894)** and **Marie Olive Leonie Poirier (1878-1963)**.

According to the 1900 United States census, Auguste and his family immigrated to the U.S. in 1886.⁵⁹ Author, Margo J. Anderson, in her book, *The American Census*, explains that the 1900 census ran smoothly despite it being an election year. It ran so smoothly that President Theodore Roosevelt eventually created the United States Census Bureau. The creation of the new office brought more and consistent surveys taken between censuses. Now, the United States government could use the Census Bureau for statistics to predict outcomes for supplies and other goods.⁶⁰

⁵⁸ "Maine Vital Records, 1670-1921," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KCD8-GZJ> : 24 September 2017), August Poirier and Camille St Clair, 14 Apr 1902; citing Lewiston, , Maine, United States, multiple sources, Maine; FHL microfilm.

⁵⁹ "United States Census, 1900," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MML4-8P8> : accessed 3 April 2020), August Poirier in household of Theophile Poirier, Auburn city Ward 5, Androscoggin, Maine, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 7, sheet 16A, family 303, NARA microfilm publication T623 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1972.); FHL microfilm 1,240,587.

⁶⁰ Anderson. *The American Census*, 112

Auguste and his family settled in Auburn, Maine, very close to where Auguste's future wife, **Camille St. Hilaire (1885-1935)**, lived. Auguste and Camille were married in April 1902. Not much else is known about Auguste except he was a painter and registered for the draft after the United States entered World War I.⁶¹ Auguste might have read an article like the one in *The Republican Journal*, which details the individuals who are required to register for the military draft brought on by America's entry to World War I.⁶² World War I would come to an end before Auguste was called up. He spent the rest of his life with his family in Lewiston. Auguste passed away on December 11, 1958. He is buried at Saint Peters Cemetery in Lewistown Maine.⁶³

Mary Theresa Seimon (1862-1944) was born on September 25, 1862, in Texas. There is no known information about Mary's parents nor her childhood, but she married **Henry Theodore Seidemann (1856-1941)** on January 21, 1883. Mary and Henry, along with their nine children, traveled around Texas looking for work to provide for their family. They lived in Stanton, Pecos, and Galveston, Texas, throughout their life.⁶⁴ Mary passed away on February 12, 1944. She is buried at Saint Joseph Cemetery in Fort Stockton, Texas.⁶⁵

Henry Theodore Seidemann (1856-1941) was born on August 1, 1856, in New Braunfels, Texas to **Peter Seidemann (1813-1860)** and **Anna Maria Daun (1822-?)**. Henry grew up with his three sisters, **Margaret Seidemann (1845-?)**, **Anna Seidemann (1851-1939)**, and **Helene Seidemann (1855-1930)**, and his five brothers, **Adam Seidemann (1848-1915)**, **Wilhelm Seidemann**

⁶¹ "Maine, World War I Draft Registration Index, 1917-1919," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q2HM-VJCD> : 11 March 2018), Augustus Poirrier, 1917-1919; citing Draft Registration, Auburn, Androscoggin, Maine, United States, Maine State Archives, Augusta; FHL microfilm 004390042.

⁶² *The Republican journal*. [volume] (Belfast, Me.), 24 May 1917. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn78000873/1917-05-24/ed-1/seq-7/>>

⁶³ Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 10 March 2020), memorial page for Auguste Poirier (6 Nov 1881–11 Dec 1958), Find a Grave Memorial no. 88008182, citing Saint Peter's Cemetery, Lewiston, Androscoggin County, Maine, USA ; Maintained by Tina Coulombe Burrows (contributor 46960627) .

⁶⁴ Tammy Christall, interview with Casey Christall, 12 March 2020

⁶⁵ Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 10 March 2020), memorial page for Mary Theresa Simon Seideman (25 Sep 1862–12 Feb 1944), Find a Grave Memorial no. 34542780, citing Saint Joseph Cemetery, Fort Stockton, Pecos County, Texas, USA ; Maintained by Don (contributor 47104708)

(1849-1895), Philip Jacob Seidemann (1854-1919), Heinrich Theodore Seidemann (1857-?),
and **Peter Seidemann Jr. (1860-?).**

Not much is known about Henry's childhood, but for most of his life, he worked as a blacksmith. Before he worked as a blacksmith, Henry worked on a ranch in Mexico.⁶⁶ Henry married Mary Theresa Seimon (1862-1944), they had nine children together. Blacksmithing allowed Henry and his family to travel around and live in South Texas. If Henry had been in the Lubbock, Texas, area during his search for work, he might have noticed the Men Wanted! notice in *The Lubbock Avalanche*. The announcement called for blacksmiths and other various professions to apply to the Santa Fe Railroad company.⁶⁷ This would have been a great opportunity for Henry and his family to seek employment. After many years traveling on the road, they finally settled in Fort Stockton, Texas. Henry passed away on July 9, 1941. He is buried at the Saint Joseph Cemetery in Fort Stockton, Texas.⁶⁸

Edna Mary Whittaker (1883-1960) was born on September 17, 1883, in Barstow, Texas, to **Ella Lee Royal (1865-1914)** and **Prentice Lycurgus Whittaker (1859-1921)**. Not much is known about Edna's childhood, but she married **Pickney Jones Black (1881-1968)** on April 19, 1903.⁶⁹ Edna worked as a housewife by sewing and quilting clothes and blankets for her children. She always had a clean house and loved making jams and jellies. Edna was against dancing, gambling, and drinking but always dressed up when she went out.⁷⁰ Edna passed away on October 19, 1960. She is buried at the South Lawn Memorial Cemetery in Tucson, Arizona.⁷¹

⁶⁶ Tammy Christall, interview with Casey Christall, 12 March 2020

⁶⁷ *The Lubbock Avalanche*. (Lubbock, Tex.), 18 July 1922. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn86088055/1922-07-18/ed-1/seq-5/>>

⁶⁸ Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 10 March 2020), memorial page for Henry Theodore Seideman (1 Aug 1856–9 Jul 1941), Find a Grave Memorial no. 34542682, citing Saint Joseph Cemetery, Fort Stockton, Pecos County, Texas, USA ; Maintained by Don (contributor 47104708) .

⁶⁹ "Texas, County Marriage Records, 1837-1965," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QV1Z-SSTP> : 10 December 2017), Jones Block and Edna Whitaker, 19 Apr 1903; citing Marriage, citing Ward, Texas, United States, Texas State Library, Archives Division, and various Texas county clerks; FHL microfilm 2,032,050.

⁷⁰ Betty Christall, interview with Casey Christall, 1 April 2020.

⁷¹ Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 1 April 2020), memorial page for Edna M. Whitaker Black (17 Sep 1884–19 Oct 1960), Find a Grave Memorial no. 78178490, citing South Lawn Memorial Cemetery, Tucson, Pima County, Arizona, USA ; Maintained by Find A Grave (contributor 8) .

Pickney Jones Black (1881-1968) was born on January 25, 1881, in Buffalo Gap, Texas, to **Martha E. Grigsby (1850-1883)** and **Pickney Jones Black (1844-1901)**. There is little information about Pickney's childhood, but for thirteen years, Pickney lived with various family members around Texas. His father took him to Bonham, Texas, with his brother, **Paten Hicks Black (1879-1959)**, where they worked as carpenters.⁷² Pickney married **Edna Mary Whittaker (1883-1960)** in April 1903 and shortly afterward began working for the United States government as a carpenter. Working as a carpenter moved Pickney and his wife all over Texas. According to Edna, while living in El Paso, she and Pickney had the pleasure of having General **John Joseph Pershing (1860-1948)** over for dinner. General Pershing served as the commander of American forces on the Western Front during World War I.⁷³

According to the 1930 census, Pickney and Edna were living in Nogales, Arizona, on the U.S. Mexico border.⁷⁴ The 1930 census was taken just as the Great Depression had begun in 1929. This census was the first time anyone would see the full effects of the Great Depression on unemployment. According to author, Margo J. Anderson, in her book, *The American Census*, the unemployment numbers from the census caused lots of controversy. President Herbert Hoover was accused of changing unemployment numbers on multiple occasions. This led Americans to resent President Hoover and many blamed him for the Depression.⁷⁵

Luckily, as a government worker, Pickney continued to work and relocated to the Pima Reservation in Arizona with his wife. Pickney built homes on the Reservation and in Tucson, Arizona. After Pickney retired, he decided to stay in Arizona for the rest of his life. He spent lots of time with his wife

⁷² Betty Christall, interview with Casey Christall. 1 April 2020.

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ "United States Census, 1930," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XH14-W7K> : accessed 5 April 2020), Pinkney J Black, Nogales, Santa Cruz, Arizona, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 3, sheet 18B, line 70, family 17, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 62; FHL microfilm 2,339,797.

⁷⁵ Anderson. *The American Census*, 157-158.

and took an interest as a beekeeper.⁷⁶ Pickney passed away on October 29, 1968. He is buried at the South Lawn Memorial Cemetery in Tucson, Arizona, alongside his wife.⁷⁷

Mary Thomas Clingsmith (1881-1911) was born on March 7, 1881, in Bonham, Texas, to **Harriet Elizabeth Pearson (1846-1910)** and **Henry Washington Clingsmith (1836-1908)**.

There is little information about Mary, but she married **Paten Hicks Blacks (1879-1959)** on January 28, 1900.⁷⁸ Mary passed away on March 28, 1911. She is buried at the Barstow Cemetery in Barstow, Texas.⁷⁹

Paten Hicks Black (1879-1959) was born on March 15, 1879, in Titus County, Texas, to **Pickney Jones Black (1844-1901)** and **Martha E. Grigsby (1850-1883)**. Paten lived with his father while his brother, **Pickney Jones Black (1881-1968)**, lived with other family members around Texas. When Pickney was of age, he joined Paten and his father and worked as carpenters. Paten married **Mary Thomas Clingsmith (1881-1911)** in January 1900. Unfortunately, after just eleven years of marriage, Mary passed away. Paten remarried a woman named **Addie Tribble Gray (1882-1979)**. Paten continued to practice carpentry for the rest of his life. He built houses in Barstow and Fort Stockton, Texas, that still stand today.⁸⁰ Paten passed away on April 6, 1959. He is buried at the East Hill Cemetery in Fort Stockton, Texas, alongside his wife, Addie.⁸¹

Mary Arizona Tucker (1877-1955) was born on October 10, 1877, in La Salle, Texas, to **Mary Ann Shely (1855-1937)** and **Campbell English Tucker (1857-?)**. Little information is known

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 1 April 2020), memorial page for Pinkney Jones Black, Jr (25 Jan 1881–Oct 1968), Find a Grave Memorial no. 78178452, citing South Lawn Memorial Cemetery, Tucson, Pima County, Arizona, USA ; Maintained by Find A Grave (contributor 8) .

⁷⁸ "Texas, County Marriage Index, 1837-1977," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XL69-25W> : 22 December 2016), P H Black and Mamie Clingsmith, 28 Jan 1900; citing Fannin, Texas, United States, county courthouses, Texas; FHL microfilm 1,293,833.

⁷⁹ Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 1 April 2020), memorial page for Mary Thomas "Mamie" Clingsmith Black (7 Mar 1881–28 Mar 1911), Find a Grave Memorial no. 22427143, citing Barstow Cemetery, Barstow, Ward County, Texas, USA ; Maintained by Diane & John (contributor 46842343) .

⁸⁰ Betty Christall, interview with Casey Christall. 1 April 2020.

⁸¹ Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 1 April 2020), memorial page for Paten Hicks Black (15 Mar 1879–6 Apr 1959), Find a Grave Memorial no. 39643491, citing East Hill Cemetery, Fort Stockton, Pecos County, Texas, USA ; Maintained by Bonnie (contributor 47042521) .

about Mary, but she married **George T. Christall (1872-1902)** on February 24, 1898.⁸² Mary passed away on June 8, 1955. She was buried in Del Rio, Texas.⁸³

George T. Christall (1872-1902) was born on March 5, 1872, in Bandera, Texas, to **John Christall (1830-1885)** and **Mary Coker (1833-?)**. Little information is known about George, but he married **Mary Arizona Tucker (1877-1955)** in February 1898. George passed away on March 10, 1902. He is buried at the Westlawn Cemetery in Del Rio, Texas.⁸⁴

⁸² "Texas, County Marriage Index, 1837-1977," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FXSL-K96> : 22 December 2016), George T. Christall and Mary A. Tuescer, 24 Feb 1898; citing Brackett, Kinney, Texas, United States, county courthouses, Texas; FHL microfilm 1,016,772.

⁸³ "Texas Deaths, 1890-1976," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K37H-VQV> : 13 March 2018), Zona T Guest, 08 Jun 1955; citing certificate number 31255, State Registrar Office, Austin; FHL microfilm 2,114,441.

⁸⁴ Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 1 April 2020), memorial page for George T. Christall, Sr (5 Mar 1872–10 Mar 1902), Find a Grave Memorial no. 5202486, citing Westlawn Cemetery, Del Rio, Val Verde County, Texas, USA ; Maintained by bobby christall (contributor 39027595)