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Allisyn Casper Family History

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The Family History of

Allisyn B. Casper

5 September 2019

Allisyn Brielle Casper 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 Pittsburgh State University **Digital Commons**. Please contact the author directly with any questions or comments: woestman@pittstate.edu

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GENERATION ONE

Allisyn Brielle Casper (1999-) was born at the Labette Health Hospital in Parsons, Labette, Kansas on 19 April 1999 to **Heath Allen Casper (1979-)** and **Dana Marie McClenning (1979-)**. When Allisyn was born, she was delivered only a day before her anticipated due date. Dana was in labor all day with Allisyn, starting at three o'clock in the morning. The day after Allisyn was born, the Columbine High School shooting happened and Dana remembers hearing about it on the news while she was in the hospital.

Allisyn was the first born child for her young parents, who had only gotten married a month before her birth. Allisyn was also the first grandchild on both her maternal and paternal side, despite both of her parents being the youngest of their siblings. When she was young, Allisyn was quite the troublemaker. She liked to get into things she was not supposed to get into and act like she was a grown up. Allisyn also liked to play fight with her dad and act like she was the boss of the house. Allisyn's parents had three more kids, making Allisyn the eldest. First, her parents had **Talon Wesley Casper (2000-)**, then **Brayden Lane Casper (2002-)**, and lastly, **Bryleigh Rhian Casper (2004-)**. When they were young, since Allisyn and her brother Talon were so close in age, they had a special relationship. Talon had speech problems and Allisyn was the only one who could understand him and communicate to their parents what he wanted. Allisyn and her three siblings all enjoyed playing outside together, creating games, and spending time with their grandparents.

Allisyn's father, Heath, remembers that Allisyn walked before she crawled. She was always on the move and finding something to get into. Dana, Allisyn's mother, has retold one story in particular many times throughout Allisyn's life. One time when Allisyn was a rowdy toddler, her father was supposed to be watching her to make sure she behaved. Instead, Allisyn snuck away and got into the kitchen cabinet. She pulled out a bottle of chocolate syrup, used to make the chocolate milk she drank every morning, and took it with her to her bedroom. In there, she opened up the bottle

and dumped it all over her bedroom. Her father came in to find his chocolate-covered daughter and a mess that took hours to clean.¹

Growing up, Allisyn's Nana, **Beatrice Lynn Cherry (1956-)**, had a daycare business, which she still runs currently, and Allisyn made lifelong friends because of this. Her best friend at the time was Jensen Riley, who Allisyn is still good friends with today. Many memories were made in the backyard of Nana's house. Allisyn and Jensen loved to catch bugs and play on the swing set. They made up games, pretending to be swashbuckling pirates and mighty superheroes. The two girls even painted themselves bright red one time and tried to convince Nana that they had gotten sun-burnt. Allisyn and Jensen also took ballet and tap dancing lessons together when they were young. The sparkly dresses were Allisyn's favorite part of dance lessons. Allisyn did not continue to dance, but Jensen did.

Heath and Dana raised their kids together in the town that both of them grew up in Parsons, Labette, Kansas. Much of Allisyn's family history takes place in Parsons, both on the maternal and paternal side of her family. Even Allisyn's first birthday is intertwined with the history of the town. On 19 April 2000, a F3 tornado tore its way through Parsons and ripped apart much of the town. About 700 homes were damaged, another 100 destroyed, and 60 businesses were damaged and 11 destroyed entirely by the tornado.² On the day of the tornado, Allisyn was with her Mamaw, **Cheryl Anne Shouse (1952-)**, and her Pampaw, **Ronald Keith McClenning (1951-)**, after her family celebrated her first birthday at Pizza Hut. Cheryl remembers hearing the tornado sirens going off and racing Allisyn back home to her worried mother. The family hid away in the basement and they all were safe. None of the family's homes were damaged, but they did have a massive tree fall in the front yard, only missing a truck by inches.³

¹ Heath Casper, Interviewed by author, 17 March 2020

² Wikipedia. "Parsons, Kansas." Accessed March 10, 2020. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parsons,_Kansas

³ Cheryl McClenning, interview by author, 7 April 2020.

The children attended school in Parsons up until Heath got a new job and the whole family moved to Granbury, Hood, Texas in September of 2012. This big change impacted all of the children greatly, but especially Allisyn because she was an eighth grader and had more difficulty making friends before entering high school. These changes brought the family closer together and brought the children out of their comfort zone. Living in Texas did not last long, though, because after discussing things with their kids, Heath and Dana decided to move their family back to Parsons, Labette, Kansas in December of 2014.

Allisyn played volleyball at Parsons High School and she was an active member in the art club. Ceramics class was Allisyn's favorite and she liked her art teacher, Mrs. Wolverton, who became a good friend. Allisyn also participated in robotics club at Parsons High School and took engineering classes all four years of high school. Allisyn did very well in school, graduating in the top ten-percent of her class in academics. Through it all, both of Allisyn's parents were there to support her.

In Figure 7.1 "Community Typology and Percentage of Population, 2000," in the book *Century of Difference: How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years*, Fischer and Hout divided up the United States into nonmetropolitan areas, with less than 1.5 million people, and large metropolitan areas of more than 1.5 million people. The authors further break down the areas into center and periphery. Villages and countrysides are considered periphery, while a center is a town of at least 2,500 people. Urban areas are also split up into suburbs, which is where many families make their home. Suburbs often form a ring around city centers.⁴

Allisyn Casper grew up in the center of small towns. These towns were dominated by rural traditions due to the surrounding farmland and agriculture surrounding them. Parsons, Labette,

⁴ Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference: How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 166.

Kansas, where Allisyn was born and grew up is home to several agriculture centers. Many of Allisyn's friends lived on farms and spoke of their daily duties, which Allisyn was able to experience firsthand while staying over.

After high school, Allisyn decided to move to Lawrence, Douglas, Kansas to attend the University of Kansas and pursue a degree. Going to the school was like a dream for Allisyn because her whole family had always been big fans of KU and her grandfather, Richard, raised her to love the Jayhawks. Everyone was proud of Allisyn for chasing her dreams and she had a wonderful time at KU, but she could not validate spending that amount of money to continue going to school at the university. Previously, she had scholarships for her freshman year of college, but the scholarships would not renew for the upcoming school year. Instead, Allisyn begrudgingly moved back to Parsons, Labette, Kansas to live with her parents and finish up her associates degree at Labette Community College. Classes at LCC were easier for Allisyn to handle and she was able to work full as a waitress, which she loved. In May of 2019, Allisyn finished her associates degree at Labette Community College in Pre Professional Medical Programs. Allisyn still was not sure what major she wanted to pursue, but she had always loved math and science. In August of 2019, Allisyn enrolled at Pittsburg State University and she is currently pursuing a degree in chemistry, emphasizing in biochemistry. Allisyn lives at home with her family and enjoys spending time with her sister.

One of Allisyn's greatest passions in life has always been to travel the world. She has always told her mother that she did not have a dream job, but she wanted to find a job to support her living her dream of traveling. The first time Allisyn was able to travel was through an opportunity presented to her through Girl Scouts. Allisyn had only been a member of the Girl Scouts for a short time, but she came in at the right time. With Girl Scouts, Allisyn worked hard for three years to fundraise money to travel to Europe on a 14 day trip of a lifetime. Allisyn and her troop did many different fundraisers to earn this money. The girls organized multiple garage sales, did spaghetti feeds, ran a fireworks stand, and helped out in any way to get the needed money. The troop started

out with 14 girls planning on going, but in the end, Allisyn and five other girls were the only ones who stayed determined to go. All of the girl's hard work paid off because in June of 2015, Allisyn and her friends headed off on their trip.

While in Europe, Allisyn was able to experience things she never imagined she would do. Allisyn checked events off of her bucket list, one by one, and only fell more in love with traveling. After Allisyn returned home from that trip, she was just looking forward to the next time she could go somewhere new. That time came when in the summer of 2019, Allisyn and her best friend Kenna, who also has a love for travel, decided to go on a three week long trip to Europe with only their backpacks full of supplies. This trip allowed the two girls to experience traveling in a whole new way. Allisyn only wants to go back.⁵

⁵ Personal knowledge of the author, Allisyn B. Casper

GENERATION TWO

A1a. Dana Marie McClenning (1979-)

A1b. Heath Allen Casper (1979-)

Dana Marie McClenning (1979-) was born at Labette Country Medical Center on 4 September 1979 in Parsons, Labette, Kansas, to **Cheryl Anne Shouse (1952-)** and **Ronald Keith McClenning (1951-)**. She has an older brother, **Ronald James McClenning (1974-)**. When Dana was young, her father started calling her Fuzzball because her hair was always frizzy and stuck straight out.⁶

Dana grew up in the same small town that she was born in, spending time with her brother and working a lot outside with her father. The family has a few farm animals and would often spend their weekends out cutting wood for the stove. Dana and her brother, Ronnie, often rode their bicycles around town.

Dana remembers when she was younger, she had a cow named Daisy that the family bottle fed. Her brother also had a cow named Blackie. Dana loved her cow that she had watch grow up.

⁶ Ronald K. McClenning, Interview with author, March 19, 2020

One day, Dana sat down to eat dinner with her family and her father asked her how Daisy tasted. After, that, Dana did not get attached to their farm animals.

Growing up, every Saturday night was spent at Dana's grandmothers, Cheryl's mother's, house. Cheryl and all of her siblings and mother and father would get together to play cards. Dana, her brother, and her cousins got to use this time to hang out and play together. All holidays were spent in a similar way with the Shouse side of the family getting together often. When they all got together, Dana's grandma would bake pies for everyone and she would use the leftover crust to make cinnamon sticks for the grandchildren.

Dana's uncle owned a gravel bar where the family also spent quite a bit of time. Dana's father would back his truck up to the gravel bar and they would spend all day out there. Dana and her brother Ronnie would swim until they came up on the shore, ready for a nap and food. Sometimes their cousins would go out there and join them.

Ronnie and Dana were quite mischievous when they were teenagers. When their parents would have get togethers at their house, the two children would go outside and loosen the lug nuts on the wheels of their friend's vehicles. They were always caught before anyone left, thankfully, but they would end up in big trouble.

Dana went to Labette County High School, which was the rival school of Allisyn's father, **Heath Allen Casper (1979-)**. Before they even dated, the two teenagers often partied together and shared mutual friends. When they started dating, Heath did not even plan on coming to see Dana. Heath was going to Dana's house to meet with her friend Stephanie, but took interest in Dana instead. The two hit it off and ended up getting married after high school.

Dana also found out she had a half sister when she was 18. Her father had a child with another woman before he married Dana's mother. This was a big shock to Dana and she felt hurt because she missed out on having her sister in her life for so long. Dana's sister's name is Shannon.

Ronnie brought Shannon over to their home one day to meet Dana and the two learned about each other and quickly became friends.⁷

Dana and Heath got married on March 26, 1999, a little under a month before their daughter, Allisyn, was due. Dana hated her wedding dress because she was heavily pregnant. Everyone remembers having a good time at the party, though. The two remain happily married.

Heath Allen Casper (1979-) was born in Presbyterian Hospital on 14 February 1979 in Dallas, Texas. He was the third child and finished off the family of all boys for **Richard Lynn Casper (1948-)** and **Beatrice Lynn Cherry (1956-)**. Heath had two older brothers, **Bradley Lynn Casper (1972-)** and **Jason Lee Casper (1974-)**. When Heath was born, Dallas was in the middle of a major ice storm and the medical professionals attempted to keep Lynn at the hospital for an extended time. Lynn had family come and pick her and Heath up from the hospital, though. A normally 20 minute drive home took them two hours. At the time, Heath's family was living in Richardson, Dallas, Texas. The family only lived in Richardson for a short time after Heath was born, moving to Denison, Grayson, Texas. By the time Heath started kindergarten, the family had moved to Parsons, Kansas.⁸

Heath's parents, Lynn and Rick, were together and separated many times. The two of them were not together at the time of the family moving to Parsons, so Heath's father remained in Denison. Heath does not have any memories of his father up until he showed up one day in Parsons. Heath, who was only five at the time, remembers that they lived at a house on Appleton street and he was standing at the front screen door when a strange car pulled in the driveway. A new man got out of the vehicle, Rick, and Heath remembers being scared as he approached the house. Little did Heath know that his dad had come to move back in with his family.

⁷ Dana Casper, Interviewed by author, April 20, 2020

⁸ Lynn Casper, Interviewed by author, April 19, 2020

Growing up, Heath remembers playing baseball everyday. Heath and his friends would get on their bicycles, ride from opposite ends of town, and meet up with others at a field. One of his friends was Justin Brown, who his mother worked with at the time. The two boys were all over town together, getting into trouble until the sun went down. When the streetlights came on, they knew it was time to get back home.

When Heath and his best friend Justin was in first grade, they would not stop causing trouble. The boys would constantly get up out of their chairs and cause a ruckus in the classroom. Heath would crack jokes and Justin could not stop laughing. Eventually, their teacher had to bribe them with atomic fireballs to behave throughout the day. If Heath and Justin had a day with no disruptions, they could have an atomic fireball before they went home for the evening. Surprisingly, her plan worked.

Heath also spent a lot of time at his Nana's, Ruby's, house because she only lived a block away. Heath would race down the street and spend time with her. Heath remembers that his Nana had a big, black mutt dog that howled so loud. Any time the dog started howling, it could be heard from streets away. Ruby also had two cherry trees in her backyard. Heath remembers eating cherries straight off of the tree until he felt sick.

In high school, Heath spent a lot of time with his friends and working on his truck. He worked at the country club with his best friend Jack. The two had a good time while working, but also caused trouble. While working there, Heath worked as both a lifeguard and a chef in the kitchen. One time, Heath and Jack were cleaning up in the kitchen after their shift and Heath accidentally ended up with his hand in the fryer. He still has scars on his hands to remind him of that story.⁹

⁹ Heath Casper, interviewed by author, April 14, 2020

GENERATION THREE

A1a1. Cheryl Anne Shouse (1952-)

A1a2. Ronald Keith McClenning (1951-)

A1b1. Beatrice Lynn Cherry (1956-)

A1b2. Richard Lynn Casper (1948-)

Allisyn's maternal grandmother, **Cheryl Anne Shouse (1952-)**, was born in Pittsburg, Crawford, Kansas on 9 September 1952, to **Rosa Lea Rehmert (1928-2019)** and **Glen Dale Shouse (1926-1996)**. Cheryl was the third child of the couple's twelve children that included six brothers and six sisters, though one of the girls was born stillborn. Cheryl was the first of her siblings to be born in a hospital instead of at home. Growing up, her family owned a sawmill in St. Paul, Neosho, Kansas and all of the children worked hard for the family business. Cheryl's bothered helped their father out with the heavy lifting, while Cheryl and her sisters helped their mother with household work.

St. Paul is a small town with a population of under 700 people. Originally, the town was called Osage Mission, but in 1895 the citizens voted to change the name to St. Paul. St. Paul is the home of many historic sites, including St. Francis Hieronymo Church which was dedicated in 1884. It also houses the Osage Mission Infirmary & Guest House and currently runs as a bed and breakfast where the owners work to preserve the history.¹⁰

St. Paul, though it is small, is the place where Cheryl and her siblings grew up. The old sawmill that Cheryl's parents previously owned is still standing today, though its condition is compromised. The lack of people is what brought about good memories for Cheryl and her 10 siblings. They rode motorcycles through the empty fields and instead of playing in sand, they would play in leftover saw dust from the mill. Cheryl remembers that when she was young, her and her siblings would often go down to the river. Before they would leave the house, Cheryl's mother would always tell

¹⁰ Wikipedia. "St. Paul, Kansas". Accessed March 14, 2020. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Paul,_Kansas

them not to go to the river, but that was always the first place they went to. Nearly every place in St Paul's small town houses a memory for Cheryl and her siblings.

In Figure 9.6 "Ideal Number of Children, by Year and Type of Place" Fischer and Hout show how the rate of fertility fell over time between the years 1950 to 2000. They collected the information from Gallup polls and GSS. Their research found that Americans in smaller communities were beginning to move to preferring smaller families like those in the city. In the 1950s rural families had an average of 3.5 children per family and people who lived in cities had an average of 3.1 children per family. By 1975, these numbers were closer together, with rural families having 2.6 children and city families having 2.5.¹¹

Allisyn Casper has family that lived in many different places and a difference in the number of children can be seen through the generations. Allisyn's great grandmother **Rosa Lea Rehmert (1928-2019)** and great grandfather **Glen Dale Shouse (1926-1996)** owned a saw mill in rural Kansas. In order to keep up with the work at the mill, they employed their children to help out. The two of them had 12 children together and all of the children have memories of working at the saw mill with their parents. However, none of their children had large families. Of the 12 children, the most children that any of them had were three. For example, Allisyn's grandmother **Cheryl Anne Shouse (1952-)** and grandfather **Ronald Keith McClenning (1951-)** only had two children, despite them also living in a rural setting.

Cheryl remembers fondly that her and her older sister Jeannie would make homemade cookies in their kitchen. Their younger siblings would come to get some of the treats, but the older girls would instead lock them out and eat all of the cookies themselves. Then, they told their siblings that if they told their mother, they would get bigger payback, so their mother never found out.

¹¹ Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 228.

When she was young, Cheryl also recalls her big family moving into a one room school house. The children had previously attended school there. It had been called Lake View School. Cheryl only has fond memories of being crammed together in the building and spending time with her siblings.

When Cheryl began dating her future husband, **Ronald Keith McClenning (1951-)**, she remembers coming home from a date with him in his car. It had been raining heavily and the creek by her house had been filling up. The roads had begun to flood and at one point on the drive home, the car's headlights were underwater. Ron pushed on, though, and they both made it back home safely. Cheryl and Ron got married on December 26, 1976.¹²

Allisyn's maternal grandfather, **Ronald Keith McClenning (1951-)**, was born in Oswego, Labette, Kansas on 28 April 1951 to **Grace May Stringer (1915-2006)** and **James Benjamin McClenning (1913-1963)**. Ron had two older siblings, Bonnie and Marion. Ron's parents lived in Parsons, Labette, Kansas but on the day of his birth, James and Grace had to go and get tags for their vehicles in Oswego when Grace went into labor. They rushed to the hospital and Ron was born soon after.

Ron has spent the entirety of his life in Parsons. He went to Lincoln School when he was younger. Ron remembers when he was in school, he would play softball with his friends in the field during recess. He played so much that they put together a team, but Ron did not want to put in any work on the team outside of school time. Instead, he wanted to go home and go down to the creek and play. He said that he had a better time down at the creek than he did when he played sports with his friends. Down at the creek, Ron had his own section of land that he claimed. It was only five blocks away from his home. No one messed with it because they knew it was his. On the land, Ron would bring his friends and they would go fishing, get in the boat, build forts, and ride go carts. Ron

¹² Cheryl McClenning, interviewed by author, March 15, 2020

vividly remembers climbing trees at the creek with his friends. They would climb up as high as they could, then one of the other boys would chop down the tree and they would fall down with it.

Ron has always loved working on cars. When he was 12, he got a job working at a generator shop that was just down the road from his home. While he was there, he had the opportunity to own his first car. He excitedly told his mother about it, but she told him he could not bring it home. Instead, Ron took apart the vehicle and brought it home with him piece by piece, only leaving the car's body behind.

This love of mechanics carried on throughout his life, carrying on into his career. Ron worked as a welder for most of his life, up until a work accident in 1988. Ron was at work when a forklift dropped a load of steel beams on his foot. He was rushed to the hospital and he ended up having to have all of the toes on his left foot amputated. This rendered him unable to continue working. Welding and mechanic work continued on as a hobby, a love that he passed down to his son.

Life had to change for Ron after his accident took place. He was unable to do a lot of the things he had been able to previously do. Getting around was hard and working was even harder. Ron had to make many trips to the doctor and has continued to have problems with his legs throughout his life because of this accident.¹³

Allisyn's paternal grandmother, **Beatrice Lynn Casper (1956-)**, was born in Parsons, Labette, Kansas on 30 October 1956 to **Ruby Maxine Coleman (1920-1993)** and **Guy Wesley Cherry (1914-1974)**. Even though she was named Beatrice, she went by Lynn for her entire life. Ruby and Guy already had three children together, two girls and a boy, and there was a significant age difference between Lynn and her older siblings. Lynn's parents had been married and divorced three separate times, so the children had large gaps between them. Lynn also had one younger brother.

¹³ Ronald McClenning, interviewed by author, April 7, 2020.

The family lived in Parsons until Lynn was four, then they moved to Denison, Grayson, Texas because Lynn's mother, Ruby, worked for the railroad and work moved down there.

Denison, Texas is a town in Grayson County, Texas that is well known for its participation in the Missouri-Kansas-Texas (MKT) Railroad. It housed a train depot where many surrounding people worked and it became a large commercial center for its time. Without the train depot, Denison would not be the town it is today. The town was established close to where the MKT crossed the Red River, making it a hub for both railroad and ship transportation. Denison became an important commercial center due to this.¹⁴

Lynn grew up in Denison, but she would visit her grandmother in Parsons often when she was young. At one time, her grandmother even asked Lynn to come and live with her in Parsons, but her mother would not allow it. Lynn met her future husband, **Richard Lynn Casper (1948-)**, while living in Denison. This is where the two of them had their first two children. Heath spoke briefly on what his parents relationship was like in his interview, but did not go into great detail.

Born in 1948, Allisyn's paternal grandfather, **Richard Lynn Casper (1948-)**, was born in Parsons, Labette, Kansas at Mercy Hospital on 19 February 1948 to **Annabelle Jones (1923-2015)** and **Edgar Lee Casper (1926-2008)**. Rick was the second born child of Annabelle and Edgar. He has one older brother, two younger twin sisters, and a younger brother.

Growing up during this time, the polio virus was sweeping America. The outbreak of the polio virus in the United States began in 1916. At the time, means of spreading the virus was unknown, just that it was more likely to affect children. Many technologies were created to aid in the prevention and treatment of polio. In 1938, as the virus continued to spread, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created an organization in order to fund research efforts for the polio virus and its sufferers. In 1947 the University of Pittsburgh hired Dr. Jonas Salk to develop a research program that revolved

¹⁴ Wikipedia. "Denison, Texas." Accessed February 11, 2020. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denison,_Texas

around the polio virus. It was not until 1953 when the vaccine was developed and reduced the cases of polio significantly. There is no cure for polio after it is contracted.¹⁵

Fischer and Hout, authors of *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years*, tell us that “Twentieth-century progress in longevity came in three phases. First, improved sanitation, especially municipal water and sewage treatment, and public health controls, such as meat and milk inspection, reduced the infections and diseases that targeted children. Second, inoculations and drugs like penicillin effectively eradicated smallpox, polio, measles, and deadly infections, again, largely extending children’s survival.”¹⁶ Polio swept the nation and frightened many. Children were not allowed out to play like usual because little was known about the virus.

Unfortunately, when Richard was 16 months old, he contracted polio in the summer of 1949. Previously, Rick was a healthy toddler. He had been walking like any other healthy boy of his age. He had no serious symptoms until he suddenly stopped walking and began crawling again, dragging his right leg behind himself. He was taken from his home in Tonkawa, Oklahoma to Oklahoma City Hospital where he underwent months of treatment. It took years for Rick to learn to walk again with the help of full leg braces and crutches. Rick had to have numerous surgeries and treatments during every year of his life up until he turned sixteen, which is when he remembers having his last polio-related surgery. Most of his summers during his childhood, Rick spent two months at the Scottish Rite Hospital in Dallas, Texas for corrective surgeries related to the side effects of the polio virus. He remembers only being allowed visitors on Sundays from two p.m. to four p.m., so he did not get to see his family very often. His siblings would often sneak over to his window to see him, even when it was not visiting hours. Rick’s mom would pack up a picnic lunch for them and they would spend the day together despite the glass between them.

¹⁵ Wikipedia. “Polio”. Accessed April 10, 2020. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polio>

¹⁶ Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 63.

Some children who had contracted the polio virus did not have any lasting side effects. Rick, though, discovered later on in life that he had developed post-polio syndrome and he will deal with the effects of the virus for the rest of his life. He was able to spend a good portion of his life without crutches or braces, which defied odds because doctors once told his mother he would never be able to walk on his own. As he grew older, he did have to move back to using crutches to aid him in walking and he has had numerous surgeries to correct parts of his legs that were effected by the polio virus.

Rick remembers that on his first ever day of school, his father told him that if any of the other children made fun of him or bothered him, then he should just hit them with his crutches and they would leave him alone. Rick listened to his father's advice and on his first day of first grade, he smacked a kid with his crutches and got in trouble. He had to sit on a stool instead of participating during recess.

Rick's school was only 5 blocks from his home, but he could not walk very well, so his parents would drive him to school every morning. After school got out, the local transportation bus driver would come by the school and pick him up. Rick was friends with the bus driver's son, so the two of them would ride on the bus together for a while before the bus driver would drop him off at home in the evening.

Rick also remembers the time that one of his father's friends took him to a camp for crippled children by Austin, Texas when he was 14 years old. The camp took place in Kerrville, Kerr, Texas. At this week long camp, Rick learned how to swim and he received his Red Cross license for learning lifesaving protocol. This camp was a big deal to young Rick because he did not often get to go out and do things on his own.

Later in life, when Rick was looking for a career, he found a place in dispatching at the Denison Police Department. Though he was not able to get in on the action, he loved working in the office of the police department. When Rick moved back to Parsons, he continued with his career. He became

a dispatcher at the Parsons Police Department and he prides himself on the protocol he helped develop for the department.¹⁷

¹⁷ Richard Casper, interviewed by author, March 25, 2020.

GENERATION FOUR

- A1a1a. Rosa Lea Rehmert (1928-2019)
- A1a1b. Glen Dale Shouse (1926-1996)

- A1a2a. Grace May Stringer McClenning (1915-2006)
- A1a2b. James Benjamin McClenning (1913-1963)

- A1b1a. Ruby Maxine Coleman (1920-1993)
- A1b1b. Guy Wesley Cherry (1914-1974)

- A1b2a. Annabelle Jones (1923-2015)
- A1b2b. Edgar Lee Casper (1926-2008)

Allisyn's mother's maternal grandmother, **Rosa Lea Rehmert (1928-2019)**, was born in Jetmore, Hodgeman, Kansas on 5 August 1928 to **Lela Mariah Beeney(1896-1979)** and **George F. Rehmert(1883-1951)**. Rosa, who was affectionately known as Rosie, had five siblings. She was the youngest in the family. She had four older brothers and an older sister.

Rosie and her husband, **Glen Dale Shouse (1926-1996)**, had 12 children together. Dana, Rosie's granddaughter, remembers going over to her house often and having large family events. Despite having such a large family, all of them were very close and Rosie's grandchildren spent a lot of time together.¹⁸

Allisyn's mother's maternal grandfather, **Glen Dale Shouse (1926-1996)**, was born in Parsons, Labette, Kansas on 1 January 1926 to **Ethel Grace Wilson (1885-1979)** and **Fleming S. Shouse (1876-1967)**. Glen's grandchildren remember riding in his truck with him to run errands and he was always so silly. He would buy the kids root beer floats and make them promise not to tell their grandmother, leaving them giggly when they went back to the house. They would also go into town to buy "dog", which is what he teasingly called lunch meat to spook the children.¹⁹

¹⁸ Dana Casper, interviewed by author, March 23, 2020

¹⁹ Dana Casper, interviewed by author, March 23, 2020

Allisyn's mother's paternal grandmother, **Grace May Stringer (1915-2006)**, was born in Parsons, Labette, Kansas on 18 December 1915 to **Bonnie Carpenter Stringer(1891-1944)** and **Clarence W. Stringer(1887-1971)**. Grace and James had three children together. Dana remembers her grandmother's home always being messy, which meant the children did not go to visit her very often. She was a hoarder in her late life.

Allisyn's mother's paternal grandfather, **James Benjamin McClenning (1913-1963)**, was born on 18 September 1913 to **Martha Annie Woods (1881-deceased)** and **James Thomas McClenning (1871-1923)**. James passed when his son, Ron, was only 12. While he was alive, he worked for the railroad.

Allisyn's father's maternal grandmother, **Ruby Maxine Coleman (1920-1993)**, was born in Parsons, Labette, Kansas on 28 May 1920 to **Mary L. Coleman (1889-1972)** and **John E. Coleman (1890-1974)**. Ruby and Guy had five children together, though they were married and divorced multiple times. Their children recall that it almost felt like there were three separate families just because they had children together when they were not separated. Lynn's sister Patricia was almost 20 years her senior.²⁰

Allisyn's father's maternal grandfather, **Guy Wesley Cherry (1914-1974)**, was born in Kansas on 19 April 1914 to **Maggie Mae Harris (1888-1961)** and **John Franklin Cherry (1877-1951)**. Allisyn knows little about him because he passed away before her father, Heath, was even born. In life, his daughter Lynn, who is Allisyn's grandmother, did not see him very often.

²⁰ Lynn Casper, interviewed by author, April 20, 2020

Allisyn's father's paternal grandmother, **Annabelle Jones (1923-2015)**, was born on 27 September 1923 to **Liane S. Martin (1899-1981)** and **Noel Galloway Jones (1897-1950)**. Annabelle and Edgar got married on 26 December 1950 and had five children together. To her great grandchildren, Annabelle was affectionately known as "Grandma Across the Street" because she lived in a small white home across the street from Lynn and Rick. Allisyn recalls Annabelle telling stories of driving a bus when she lived in Denison.²¹

Allisyn's father's paternal grandfather, **Edgar Lee Casper (1926-2008)**, was born in Tonkawa, Kay, Oklahoma on 9 February 1926 to **Euphie Roena Shipman (1900-1971)** and **Franklin Levitt Casper (1872-1949)**. Edgar, known as E.L., served the United States in World War II and was a hard working man.

²¹ Personal knowledge of the author, Allisyn B. Casper

GENERATION FIVE

A1a1a1. Lela Mariah Beeney (1896-1979)
A1a1a2. George F. Rehmert (1883-1951)

A1a1b1. Ethel Grace Wilson (1885-1979)
A1a1b2. Fleming S. Shouse (1876-1967)

A1a2a1. Bonnie Carpenter Stringer (1891-1944)
A1a2a2. Clarence W. Stringer (1887-1971)

A1a2b1. Martha Annie Woods (1881-deceased)
A1a2b2. James Thomas McClenning (1871-1923)

A1b1a1. Mary L. Boulware (1889-1972)
A1b1a2. John E. Coleman (1890-1974)

A1b1b1. Maggie Mae Harris (1888-1961)
A1b1b2. John Franklin Cherry (1877-1951)

A1b2a1. Liane S. Martin (1899-1981)
A1b2a2. Noel Galloway Jones (1897-1950)

A1b2b1. Euphie Roena Shipman (1900-1971)
A1b2b2. Franklin Levitt Casper (1872-1949)

Allisyn's maternal grandmother's maternal grandmother, **Lela Mariah Beeney (1896-1979)**, was born to **Lorenzo Harrison Beeney (1856-1941)** and **Florence Isabella Phillips (1863-1930)** on 14 April, 1896. **George F. Rehmert (1883-1951)** was born on 13 September 1883 to **Wilhelmina Brinkmann (1837-1901)** and **Frederick Rehmert (1832-1932)**. Lela married George on 7 August 1914. The two of them had 6 children.²²

Allisyn's maternal grandmother's paternal grandmother, **Ethel Grace Wilson (1885-1979)**, was born on 26 November 1885 to **Sara Carolina Disney (1851-1938)** and **Isaac William Wilson (1851-1936)**. **Fleming S. Shouse (1876-1967)** was born on 18 April 1876 to **Obediah Shouse**

²² Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 28 April 2020), memorial page for Lela Mariah Beeney Rehmert (14 Apr 1896–Mar 1979), Find a Grave Memorial no. 104098350, citing East Hill Cemetery, Erie, Neosho County, Kansas, USA ; Maintained by Gypsy Girl (contributor 47851655) .

(1830-1910) and Verlinda Craig (1836-1930). Ethel and Fleming got married on 29 April 1903.

Together they had 11 children.²³

Allisyn's maternal grandfather's maternal grandmother, **Bonnie Carpenter Stringer (1891-1944)**, was born in 1891. **Clarence W. Stringer (1887-1971)** was born on 31 December 1887 to **William Douglas Stringer (1863-1944)** and **Samantha Jackson (1870-1939)**. The two of them got married on 25 February 1915 and together they had only had one child.^{24,25}

Allisyn's maternal grandfather's paternal grandmother, **Martha Annie Woods (1881-deceased)**, was born in March 1881 to **Henrietta Buchanan (1852-1929)** and **Benjamin Frye Woods (1850-1927)**. **James Thomas McClenning (1871-1923)** was born in March of 1871 to **Elizabeth Morrison (1832-deceased)** and **James McClenning (1837-1894)**. Martha and James were married on 26 March 1901 and together they had four children.

Allisyn's paternal grandmother's maternal grandmother, **Mary L. Boulware (1889-1972)**, was born on 10 November 1889. **John E. Coleman (1890-1974)** was born on 15 July 1890 to **Mary Jane Morford (1856-1922)** and **Abner Hubert Coleman (1855-1909)**. The two were married on 1 December 1912. Together they had two children.²⁶

23 Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 28 April 2020), memorial page for Grace M Stringer McClenning (18 Dec 1915–6 Feb 2006), Find a Grave Memorial no. 33211904, citing Mount Hope Cemetery, Galesburg, Neosho County, Kansas, USA ; Maintained by Find A Grave (contributor 8) .

²⁴ "United States Census, 1940," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VRK6-N7M> : 28 February 2020), Bonnie G Stinger in household of Clarence W Stinger, North Township, Labette, Kansas, United States; citing enumeration district (ED...

25 Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 28 April 2020), memorial page for Clarence W Stringer (1887–1971), Find a Grave Memorial no. 29007350, citing Mount Hope Cemetery, Galesburg, Neosho County, Kansas, USA ; Maintained by Find A Grave (contributor 8) .

26 Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 28 April 2020), memorial page for Mary L Coleman (10 Nov 1889–22 May 1972), Find a Grave Memorial no. 192508263, citing Oakwood Cemetery, Parsons, Labette County, Kansas, USA ; Maintained by KJLII (contributor 46637247) .

Allisyn's paternal grandmother's paternal grandmother, **Maggie Mae Harris (1888-1961)**, was born on 15 January 1888. **John Franklin Cherry (1877-1951)** birth occurred on 8 September 1877 to **Tabitha Ann Young (1849-1923)** and **George Washington Cherry (1831-1913)**. The two of them were married on 15 July 1906 and they had ten children.²⁷

Allisyn's paternal grandfather's maternal grandmother, **Liane S. Martin (1899-1981)**, was born on 8 April 1899. **Noel Galloway Jones (1897-1950)** was born on 15 September 1897. According to memory, the two of them got married in 1922. Together they had three children.²⁸

Allisyn's paternal grandfather's paternal grandmother, **Euphie Roena Shipman (1900-1971)**, was born on 12 August 1900. **Franklin Levitt Casper (1872-1949)** was born on 6 November 1872 to **Samuel Joshua Casper (1829-1915)** and **Mary Jane Hayter (1832-1907)**. They were married in 1919 and they had six children.²⁹³⁰

²⁷ "California, County Birth and Death Records, 1800-1994", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QGFB-F4S1> : 26 September 2019), Maggie Cherry in entry for John Franklin Cherry, 1951.

²⁸ "United States Census, 1930," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:HYF5-FMM> : accessed 29 April 2020), Liane S Jones in household of Noel G Jones, Denison, Grayson, Texas, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 27, sh...

²⁹ Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 28 April 2020), memorial page for Euphie R. Shipman Casper (12 Jul 1900–21 Apr 1971), Find a Grave Memorial no. 19789831, citing Tonkawa IOOF Cemetery, Tonkawa, Kay County, Oklahoma, USA ; Maintained by catpurrson (contributor 46845001) .

³⁰ "United States, GenealogyBank Obituaries, 1980-2014," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QKGP-TFPT> : accessed 29 April 2020), Frank L Casper in entry for Edgar L Casper Or E, Kansas, United States, 04 Feb 2008; from "Recent New...