

Pittsburg State University

## Pittsburg State University Digital Commons

---

Your Family in History: HIST 550/700

History

---

Spring 5-2-2020

### The Family History of Erin Taylor

Erin Taylor

taylorerinjoyce@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.pittstate.edu/hist550>



Part of the [Genealogy Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

This Graduate Research is brought to you for free and open access by the History at Pittsburg State University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Your Family in History: HIST 550/700 by an authorized administrator of Pittsburg State University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@pittstate.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@pittstate.edu).

# **The Family History of**

**Erin Taylor**

**28 April 2020**

Erin Taylor 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: [erin.taylor@pittstate.edu](mailto:erin.taylor@pittstate.edu)

**This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.**

## List of Direct Line Family Members

### Generation One

- A1. Erin Joyce Taylor (1987- )
- A2.

### Generation Two

- A1a. Elaine Michelle Brashear (1954- )
- A1b. Charles Michael Taylor (1954- )

### Generation Three

- A1a1. Elaine Marie Sanders (1924-1993)
- A1a2. Harold Brashear (1920-2008)
  
- A1b1. Joyce Carol Blackwell (1932- )
- A1b2. Harry Clyde Taylor (1929-2016)

### Generation Four

- A1a1a. Mary Margaret Beer (1893-1965)
- A1a1b. Herman Lawrence Sanders (1894-1983)
  
- A1a2a. Mabel Belle Combs (1896-1989)
- A1a2b. Elias Brashear (1895-1971)
  
- A1b1a. Alma Belle Wilmer (1914-2012)
- A1b1b. Wallace Clarence Blackwell (1910-1989)
  
- A1b2a. Mary Alice Morris (1892-1959)
- A1b2b. Harry Clyde Taylor (1881-1961)

## **Generation Five**

**A1a1a1. Margaret Zettler (1855-1940)**

**A1a1a2. Frank Beer (1855-1934)**

**A1a1b1. Anna Barbara Wellinghoff (1861-1934)**

**A1a1b2. Herman Henry Sanders (1854-1924)**

**A1a2a1. Belle Fletcher (1872-1954)**

**A1a2a2. Balis Combs (1858-1942)**

**A1a2b1. Elizabeth Pratt (1852-1924)**

**A1a2b2. James Nicholas Brashear (1835-1920)**

**A1b1a1. Laura Victoria Wilmore (1875-1953)**

**A1b1a2. Andrew Tilton Wilmer (1876-1936)**

**A1b1b1. Olive Eugenia Hill (1882-1975)**

**A1b1b2. John W. Blackwell (1863-1924)**

**A1b2a1. Viola May Ater (1873-1943)**

**A1b2a2. Charles C. Morris (1867-1927)**

**A1b2b1. Mary Ann Bennet (1838-1916)**

**A1b2b2. Jonathan Taylor (1832-1911)**

## Generation One

**A1. Erin Joyce Taylor (1987- )**

**A2.**

**Erin Joyce Taylor (1987- )** was born in December of 1987 in Chicago, Illinois, to **Elaine Michelle “Micky” Brashear (1954- )** and **Charles Michael Taylor (1954- )**. She was the first child born to the couple. When Erin was two years old the family moved back to West Chester, Ohio, to be closer to family. A few months after the move, Micky gave birth to **Laura Marie Taylor (1990- )**. The two sisters grew up very close and loved swimming, running around the yard with their dogs, playing with barbies, and crafting together.

Erin grew up one mile away from her grandparent’s **Harry Taylor (1929-2016)** and **Joyce Carol Blackwell (1932- )** house. Erin and Laura would spend a lot of time over there and Joyce would always play with them in the playroom in their very spacious basement. Joyce had many of her old clothes there for them to dress up in and a myriad of toys to play with. A favorite activity of theirs was to “make a mess,” which meant mixing many cooking ingredients together in a bowl for fun. Every December Joyce had the girls over to make Christmas cookies and wrap presents. They made gobs of cookies and iced them all—even though it took all day! For their hard work Joyce gave them one early Christmas present each. When Erin was thirteen, she became interested in sewing, as Joyce had been an avid crafter making quilts and needle point works. Joyce helped to show Erin how to quilt, so they picked out all the fabric and Joyce showed her how to put it all together. The quilt turned out beautifully and she still has it. Since Erin and Laura were little Harry and Joyce had been taking them to the racetracks to bet on horses. They would often go to River Downs, where their mother’s father **Harold Brashear (1920-2008)** owned and raced horses, as did Harry for a time. One-time Erin remembers accidentally betting twenty dollars on one horse, but the horse won, and she got over two-hundred and twenty dollars!

Erin at a young age became interested in other countries and had a deep desire to study the Japanese language. On her thirteenth birthday, she had her first Japanese lesson with a former Ohio State University Japanese professor, Mrs. Tanaka. She took private lessons with her for the next four years. Erin was very interesting in languages, so she also started studying French and at the age of sixteen and went to study in Antibes, France for the summer. There she

lived with a host family, went to school daily, and explored Southern France. After that summer, Erin took extra classes online and was able to graduate from high school a year early. She did this because she had convinced her parents to let her go to high school for a year in Japan. Erin found a school online that had just started accepting international students and to her delight, she was accepted. She went alone to Osaka, Japan, and lived with a host family while attending Osaka Girls' High School. There were three other girls from America and one from New Zealand, but after four months they all went home leaving Erin as the lone foreigner. This helped to further her Japanese language skills immensely, as none of her classmates spoke English. Her mother Elaine came to Japan to visit, and together they went to Kyoto, Hiroshima, and Tokyo. Erin delighted in showing her around Japan.

After a year in Japan, Erin moved back to Ohio and attended The University of Findlay, a small private university, renowned for their Japanese program. There she had a brilliant professor named Kawamura-sensei that helped to motivate and challenge her throughout the stimulating Japanese program. The perk of the program was the small class sizes and in her advanced Japanese classes there were only three students. In her third year, she studied abroad in Saitama, Japan, at Daito Bunka University. She lived in an apartment building with other international students and they often hung out together. She made life-long friends and had an amazing experience. Erin graduated with a degree in Japanese in December of 2010 and moved to New York City a few months later. There she started working at an upscale Japanese restaurant in the Trump World Tower in midtown as the maître'd for several years. In 2014 she decided to move home to Ohio to live with her sister in Columbus. While her sister Laura attended Ohio State University's veterinary medicine program, Erin began working in the hospitality industry. Erin has always enjoyed traveling and working in the hospitality industry has allowed her to do a lot of it! She has been to over thirty countries on six continents. Erin also has a passion for history and travels to see historical sites like the Great Pyramids in Egypt, the ancient Roman ruins of Nikopolis ad Istrum in Bulgaria, the Great Wall of China, and the beaches of Normandy. When she is not traveling, Erin volunteers at a national historic site once a week and is taking online class to obtain a master's degree in history. She hopes to one day work at a museum or in the National Park Service.

In addition to traveling and learning about history, Erin enjoys watching classic movies. She particularly is interested in the silent films and pre-code films. One of her favorite actors is

Rudolph Valentino—one of the most popular silent actors of the 1920s. Her favorite films of his are *The Son of the Sheik* and *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*. Her interest in Valentino has led her to travel to Hollywood many times over the years and in 2018 she finally was able to attend the 91<sup>st</sup> annual Valentino Memorial Service at Hollywood Forever Cemetery. She has also attended the Turner Classic Movies film festival for two years in a row in Los Angeles. She loves getting to spend time surrounded by fellow classic movie lovers!

In addition to watching movies, Erin also enjoys researching her family history. She hopes to keep adding to her family history as more information becomes available online, but she also is hoping to visit places her family lived in Kentucky and Virginia to look through their archives.

In Figure 3.3 “Top Fourteen Ancestry Responses and Percentages Mentioning No Ancestry Among Whites Eighteen Years Old and Over, 2000” Fischer and Hout detail the responses given in the 2000 census in which white Americans identified their earliest European ancestry. The highest percentage of ancestry was German, with close to 15 percent. Followed closely by British and Irish with both over 10 percent. The next largest was Italian with over 5 percent. Ancestry of less than 5 percent were as follows: French, Mexican, Polish, Norwegian, Dutch, American Indian, Swedish, and Russian. At the bottom of the chart, almost 10 percent of ancestry was given as American (a common answer for those with ancestors that arrive many generations ago), and close to 20 percent gave no answer.<sup>1</sup>

Erin Taylor, like the majority of Americans in the 2000 census, identifies as having German and British ancestry. Most of her direct British ancestors came to the United States in the 1700s, while her German ancestors mostly immigrated here throughout the 1800s. The Taylor surname is British and can be traced back to **Beriah Taylor (1744-1810)**, as he was the first ancestor to immigrate to the United States from Birmingham, England around 1760.<sup>2</sup> Erin’s maternal grandmother’s maiden name was Sanders. Sanders is a German surname originating in the family with **Herman Henry Sanders (1854-1924)**. He emigrated from Hanover, Germany to Hamilton, Ohio in 1875.<sup>3</sup> Erin has numerous English and German ancestors throughout her

---

<sup>1</sup> Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 29.

<sup>2</sup> C. Tharp, “Taylor,” Viola Longerbone Ancestry. Accessed February 13, 2020. <https://www.oocities.org/cetbus/cet5C.html>

<sup>3</sup> “United States Census, 1920,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MDRX-JV9>; accessed 25 February 2020), Herman H Sanders, Eaton Ward 4, Preble, Ohio, United States; citing ED 266, sheet 2A, line 18, family 30, NARA

family tree, but like 5 percent of Americans she also has French ancestry, though she only has one known direct relative from France. Her mother's maiden name is Brashear, a French surname passed down from **Benjamin Brashear (1620-1663)**. He immigrated to Maryland from France around the year 1635 to escape religious persecution, as he was a French Huguenot.<sup>4</sup>

When Erin researches her family history, she likes to try to trace her roots to her earliest known relatives in America. She was surprised to learn how long her family has been in the United States, with most having arrived in the 1600s and 1700s. Erin also likes to research relatives that have fought in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War, WWI and WWII and in the Korean War.

---

microfilm publication T625 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1992), roll 1428; FHL microfilm 1,821,428

<sup>4</sup> "The Brashear (Brasseur) Family." Accessed April 13, 2020. <http://www.sonsofdewittcolony.org/pattbrasher1.htm>



## Generation Two

**A1a. Elaine Michelle Brashear (1954- )**

**A1b. Charles Michael Taylor (1954- )**

**Elaine Michelle Brashear (1954- )** was born in September of 1954 to **Elaine Marie Sanders (1924-1993)** and **Harold Brashear (1920-2008)**. She was named after her mother but went by the nickname Micky. She was the fifth girl born to the couple in Hamilton, Ohio. Her older sisters are **Carole Brashear (1945- )**, **Susan “Sue” Brashear (1947- )**, **Constance “Connie” Brashear (1950- )**, and **Brenda Gail Brashear (1953-2006)**.<sup>5</sup> Micky was the baby of the family for eight years until the sixth and final child was born, a boy named **Harold Brashear (1963- )**. She remembers holding Harold and accidentally dropping him. Her mother scolded her, and she ran away crying but her father found her and reassured her that it was okay and that her brother was not hurt.<sup>6</sup> When Harold was around two, when her mother went to work, the kids would babysit Harold. He would scream so much the girls would lock him out of the house! He would pound and scream on the door to be let back in. He also would bite them, and they all hated looking after him.

Growing up Micky remembers her mother’s penchant for cleaning. Every day she would scrub the house clean. On the weekends, as soon as the kids awoke, they were expected to help clean the entire house. Micky would try and sleep in as late as she could to get out of cleaning. Micky was raised Catholic as her mother Elaine was very religious and had given up her favorite treat candy in exchange with God to let her see her children grow up. She kept this promise and did not eat candy until all her children had all moved out of her house. Growing up Micky attended Catholic school throughout elementary, middle and high school and attended church every Sunday with her mother and siblings.<sup>7</sup> Claude S. Fischer notes that “more twentieth-century Americans belonged to churches than belonged to prior centuries. Rates of membership fell a bit after the 1950s, but participation in churches still remained more widespread than in earlier eras.”<sup>8</sup> Once Elaine moved out of her mother’s home she stopped

---

<sup>5</sup> Personal knowledge of author.

<sup>6</sup> Elaine Brashear Taylor, interview with Erin Taylor, February 2, 2020.

<sup>7</sup> Elaine Brashear Taylor, interview.

<sup>8</sup> Claude S. Fischer, *Made in America: A Social History of American Culture and Character* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2010), 3.

attending church and no longer participates in the religion, but four of her siblings still attend church every week and actively participate in the Catholic Church.

Micky's family grew up extremely poor and she remembers being annoyed that she always had to wear hand-me downs and only received one present at Christmas time. Her mother packed her lunch in a brown paper bag and that bag had to last the entire week. Micky's grandfather **Herman Lawrence Sanders (1894-1983)** was very wealthy and often would deliver a carload of food to the family. Micky remembers that on Saturday morning, her grandfather would pull in his beautiful Cadillac and honk the horn. Her and her sisters would all run out to greet him and help bring in the food he had brought for them. Micky also recalls that he sent one of his housekeepers named Mildred to their home to help her mother with cleaning and occasional baby-sitting. Micky's father was largely absent as her parents divorced when she was sixteen. She recalls that as a child she made him his favorite drink—Jack and coke. She also remembers waiting outside her mom's house for her dad to pick her to take her to his farm for the day, but he would often not show up.<sup>9</sup> This was a great disappointment to her.

Micky had an interest in science and upon graduating from high school attended Miami University where she received her associate degree in science. She immediately got a job at Procter & Gamble where she tested dish soap and later pharmaceutical drugs on rats. She also became interested in drag racing while dating a man ten years her senior, named Dennis. She bought a 928 Porsche and was soon winning every race she entered. She was so good that she stopped racing with women and started to race in the men's competitions. She recalls that some men refused to race if a woman raced with them, but that did not deter her from entering the competitions.<sup>10</sup> Eventually, she focused her attentions more on her job and less on racing and by the age of twenty-eight was no longer drag racing.

Micky met **Charles Michael Taylor (1954- )** at work, as they both were employees of P&G, though Mike (as he was called) worked in computer programming. Six-months after meeting the two were engaged and married six-months after that in Cincinnati, Ohio, at the Hyatt Regency. Micky had her mother walk her down the aisle, as her parents were divorced, and humorously remembers the preacher addressing the crowd and mistakenly talking about her

---

<sup>9</sup> Elaine Brashear Taylor, interview.

<sup>10</sup> Elaine Brashear Taylor, interview.

father being deceased!

When Mike and Micky moved to Chicago for Mike's job, Micky took the opportunity to attend Elmhurst College to finish getting her BA degree in science. She graduated in two years and gave birth to her first child Erin a few months after graduating. She was a stay at home mom for ten years but found it to be unstimulating. She took karate a few times a week to get out of the house and became a black belt. When Erin was ten, Micky got a part time job back at P&G, but this time as a medical writer. She enjoyed the work so much; she quickly became full time and Mike quite his job to stay home with the kids. She quickly progressed and over the next twenty years moved from to several different companies and is currently Vice President of a global regulatory group.

**Charles Michael Taylor (1954- )** was born in Columbus, Ohio, to **Joyce Carol Blackwell (1932- )** and **Harry Taylor (1929-2016)**. He has an older sister **Deborah "Debbie" Taylor (1953- )** and a younger sister named **Dinah Lynn Taylor (1957-2006)**. Mike, as he was called, grew up in a trailer as his family moved several times a year. His father Harry was in construction, so they moved to wherever he was working. Mike remembers his disappointment at having to leave his friends behind, and how he hated switching schools so often. When his younger sister was born, the family bought a house to try and bring more stability to their lives, though they would still move several more times, they did not move as frequently.

When Mike's sister Dinah was around a year old the doctors noticed that she was not progressing as a normal child and decided that at birth the cord was most likely wrapped around her neck, cutting off oxygen, thus making her intellectually stunted. She only had the mental capabilities of a toddler. Mike remembers Dinah sneaking out of her room to the kitchen, where she would smear food all over. She would also have many outbursts and hit him in the back. Dinah lived with the family until she was thirteen, because as she got bigger and stronger, she became difficult for her parents to handle. They sent her to a home where they could better care for her. Her niece Erin remembers visiting Dinah and bringing her stacks of magazines because she liked to rip the pages. Dinah lived in a home for adults with disabilities until her death from a heart attack in 2006.<sup>11</sup>

In Figure 8.1 "Current Religious Preferences of American Adults Age Twenty-Five to

---

<sup>11</sup> Charles Michael Taylor, interview with Erin Taylor April 15, 2020.

Seventy-Four” Fischer and Hout detail how the majority of adults were Protestant, with over 50 percent. Followed by Catholic at about 25 percent, no religion at almost 15 percent, and Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, and other religions all under 5 percent.<sup>12</sup> Mike did not grow up in an overly religious household, but both of his parents identified as Protestants. They dropped off Mike and his older sister Debbie at a Protestant church on Sundays so they could attend bible study, though their parents did not stay for church service.<sup>13</sup> Mike later converted to Catholicism to appease a girl he was engaged to in the early 1980s, though he did not end up marrying her. He now identifies as an agnostic. His sister Debbie also converted to Catholicism in the 2010s.

Mike does not remember his childhood fondly and recalls his parent’s frequent fights. He recalled one particularly turbulent time when his mother drained their bank account and went to Virginia to stay with her mother. She left Harry and the kids with no money. She did come back, and the family soon embarked on a three-month long trip throughout the South—visiting New Orleans twice. They came back and moved into their new home in Cincinnati just one day before school started.<sup>14</sup>

While Mike’s home life was not always stable, he found solace in his aunts. Three of Harry’s sisters **Muriel Eileen Taylor (1919-1970)**, **Beatrice June Taylor (1920-1990)**, and **Viola Ray Taylor (1928-1973)** never married and had no children of their own, so they doted on Mike. Mike remembers that Eileen was incredibly smart—she was valedictorian at her high school. Eileen and Viola lived together, and he stayed with them occasionally, and for two weeks straight one time. When he stayed with them for two weeks, he helped cut their lawn and one night took them out to eat at the expensive Kon Tiki restaurant in Columbus. For four people the total came to \$75 and that was exactly the amount of money he had been given by his dad, so Eileen helped and left the tip. She later tried to pay him for cutting the grass, but he refused any payment. Mike felt that she was an extremely caring person. On December 7, 1970, Mike was called out of English class to come to the office, where his mother was. She told him that Eileen had died, he was in such shock he did not remember who Eileen was or what she looked like as he walked to his locker to get his things. Eileen had driven to work that morning

---

<sup>12</sup> Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, 189.

<sup>13</sup> Personal knowledge of author.

<sup>14</sup> Charles Michael Taylor, interview.

and as she was walking up the stairs to her office building, she had a heart attack and was dead before she hit the stairs, as her body had no bruising on it. She was only fifty-one years old. Mike and his mom drove to Columbus that day, and Harry picked out a mahogany coffin for her. She was cremated in the new dress she purchased to wear at her niece Debbie's upcoming wedding.<sup>15</sup>

Mike remembers Viola as being incredibly funny, friendly and smart. She had gotten the highest score on the nursing test and received a scholarship. She was the only one in her family to attend college. When Eileen died Mike noticed a dramatic change in her, she turned nasty and crazy. He thinks the shock of losing her sister unexpectedly had caused her a great deal of mental anguish. Mike respected Viola more than anyone else in the world, so seeing her acting so strangely had rattled him. Viola eventually returned to her normal, pleasant self. Mike liked that she was kind, but also did not put up with any nonsense. Viola smoked constantly and was overweight, she died just three years after Eileen. She was only forty-five years old.<sup>16</sup>

At the age of eighteen, Mike signed up to join the army while his parents were away for a few days. Mike had always wanted to join the military. He wanted to be drafted so he could serve only two years, but the draft ended so he had to sign up on his own. When his parents found out they were less than pleased he had signed up without telling them, especially since the Vietnam War was going on at the time. Before signing up to become a paratrooper, Mike and two of his high school friends took a quick class on skydiving to make sure he liked jumping out of planes. He loved the rush and signed up for three years in 1974. He first went to Fort Polk, Louisiana, for basic training and infantry training from June 10 to October. He then went to Fort Benning, Georgia, where he spent one month in jump school. When he graduated from jump school, he was sent to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, for the rest of his time in the army. He was placed into the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, which he was very proud to be in. The Vietnam War ended in 1975, so Mike never saw combat. He enjoyed his time in the army and recalls one training exercise jumping from a plane that saw him land in a tree. He had to cut himself down, shimmy down the tree a great distance and then walk back to base some three miles away. Mike worked in the finance office as well during his time in the army and one night he was asked to pull three files for men that were killed that night in a jump training accident. Mike never knew

---

<sup>15</sup> Charles Michael Taylor, interview.

<sup>16</sup> Charles Michael Taylor, interview.

what had gone wrong, but that night stood out in his memory.<sup>17</sup>

After three years in the army, Mike attended the University of Cincinnati for two years where he studied computer programming and graduated with an associate degree in computer science. He worked at Procter & Gamble where he met his wife, **Elaine Michelle Brashear (1954- )** in 1986. After they were married, they moved to Chicago for several years before settling down in West Chester, Ohio for twelve years. While in West Chester, Mike quit his job to go back to school and get his bachelor's degree in computer programming. He attended Phoenix University online in the early 2000s. It was a difficult process because the internet connection was so slow, many of his lectures came in the mail on a cd rom. While he was in school, he also took care of Erin and Laura. He drove them to school and picked them up from school every day, cooked all meals, helped them with their homework and cleaned the house.<sup>18</sup>

Mike graduated from Phoenix University and worked at several companies as a computer programmer. Now he works at a dental care company where he oversees their website.

---

<sup>17</sup> Charles Michael Taylor, interview.

<sup>18</sup> Personal knowledge of the author.

## Generation Three

**A1a1. Elaine Marie Sanders (1924-1993)**

**A1a2. Harold Brashear (1920-2008)**

**A1b1. Joyce Carol Blackwell (1932- )**

**A1b2. Harry Clyde Taylor (1929-2016)**

**Elaine Marie Sanders (1924-1993)** was born to **Mary Margaret Beer (1893-1965)** and **Herman Lawrence Sanders (1894-1983)** in Hamilton, Ohio. She was the fifth of eight children born to the couple. Her siblings were **Mary M. Sanders (1916-2013)**, **Herman “Bud” Edward Sanders (1917-2005)**, **Thelma “Pete” Sanders (1919-2008)**, **Richard “Dicky” Sanders (1922-1942)**, **Mark “Mike” Leo Sanders (1926-2013)**, **Clara Louise Sanders (1928-1992)**, and **Charlotte “Shorty” Sanders (1929-2014)**.<sup>19</sup> Elaine was born to very wealthy parents and grew up with cooks, maids, and nannies. Elaine was her father’s favorite and often received preferential treatment from him. She received a brand-new convertible on her sixteenth birthday. She liked having fun and would often skip school to go out with her friends in her car.

Elaine has an idyllic upbringing, but it was not without hardships. When Elaine was in sixth grade, she had hepatitis and she almost died. Lucky, she was able to make a full recovery, but it was a scary time in her life.<sup>20</sup> When she was a teenager her older brother Dicky died on Christmas morning at the age of twenty. He had suffered from seizures his whole life and his parents placed him in an institution, as he was too large for them to handle when he had epileptic fits. According to his obituary he died in Gallipolis, Ohio.<sup>21</sup> From 1901 to 1971 Gallipolis was home to the Ohio Home for Epileptics which was the first established colony for epilepsy in the United States.<sup>22</sup> According to his niece **Carol Brashear (1945- )** his mother Mary felt he passed away of a broken heart, as he loathed being institutionalized.<sup>23</sup>

Two of Elaine’s brothers fought in World War II. Bud was an Army Technical Sergeant in the Asiatic Pacific Theatre. He served from January 23, 1941 to May 25, 1946. He was

---

<sup>19</sup> Elaine Brashear Taylor, interview.

<sup>20</sup> Elaine Brashear Taylor, interview.

<sup>21</sup> “Richard A. Sanders” obituary from December 26, 1942, from author’s collection.

<sup>22</sup> Diem Kissiov, Taylor Dewart, and Bruce Hermann, “The Ohio Hospital for Epileptics—The First ‘Epilepsy Colony’ in America,” NCBI, accessed March 29, 2020. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3775289/>

<sup>23</sup> Carol Brashear Enderle, interview with Erin Taylor March 1, 2020.

honorably discharged from Camp Atterbury in Indiana.<sup>24</sup> Her brother Mike upon graduating from high school in 1944 went on to serve in the US Navy as Seaman First Class.<sup>25</sup>

Elaine liked to spend her weekends at the Lesourdsville dance. When she was sixteen, she met a very attractive young man at the dance, his name was **Harold Brashear (1920-2008)** and he was a few years older than her. Elaine did not think she was pretty and was baffled that such an attractive man was interested in her. She fell hard for him. Her parents disliked Harold immensely but allowed their daughter to marry him when she was just nineteen years old. Elaine and Harold were married in 1944 and the couple moved to Tucson, Arizona, where Harold was stationed. When Elaine became pregnant later that year, Harold sent her home to live with her parents. She was furious, as she did not like being sent away and had wanted to stay with Harold on base. The next year Elaine welcomed their first child together named Carol. Carol remembers that Elaine lived at her father Herman's home when she was a newborn. Herman purchased Elaine and Harold a small house on G Street in Hamilton when Carol was nine months old and they moved into the property.<sup>26</sup> Elaine lived in that house for over thirty years and raised six children there. Harold had a penchant for drinking and disappearing for periods of time, which led to their eventual divorce in 1972 and Elaine would never remarry.

Elaine was very religious and attended church every Sunday with her children, she also sent them all to Catholic school from elementary to high school. In Figure 8.9 "Attendance at Religious Services, by Year and Denomination" Fischer and Hout show in the graph that Protestant and Jewish attendance has remained consistent, while only slight drops, while Catholic church attendance has decreased from 1957 to 2000. In the late 1950s attendance was over 75 percent, by the 1970s it had decreased the most at almost 60 percent. In the 1980s it was a little over 50 percent and by 2000 it was below 50 percent.<sup>27</sup> The majority of Elaine's children have continued to attend Catholic church weekly, however her daughter Micky stopped going in the 1970s, when the biggest decrease in attendance happened.

Elaine's daughter **Brenda Gail Brashear (1953-2006)** and her lived together until her death. In her thirties Brenda was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, and the diseases progressed quickly. She moved in with Elaine and Brenda tried to work for as long as she could, but when

---

<sup>24</sup> Find A Grave. "Herman Edward Sanders." Accessed April 19, 2020. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/110192871>

<sup>25</sup> Find A Grave. "Mark L. "Mike" Sanders". Accessed April 19, 2020. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/106067060>

<sup>26</sup> Carol Brashear Enderle, interview.

<sup>27</sup> Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, 205.



she no longer could drive, she took the bus to work. Finally, it became too hard and she had to quit her job. Elaine passed away in 1993 from a short three-week battle with multiple myeloma. Brenda remained in the house they shared for several more years, before she was moved to a nursing home. She lived there until her death in 2006.<sup>28</sup>

**Harold Brashear (1920-2008)** was born in Hazard, Kentucky, on May 15, 1920 to **Mabel Belle Combs (1896-1989)** and **Elias Brashear (1895-1971)**. He had an older sister named **Thelma Brashear (1918-2006)**. His parents divorced around 1925 and his mother moved to Chicago, placing him and his older sister into an orphanage. His sister Thelma recalled her brother and her having to go and get firewood at the orphanage in the freezing cold and she had to help Harold because he was so little. Harold became ill and finally his grandfather **Balis Combs (1858-1942)** came and took the children to live with him. Eventually their mother came back from Chicago and moved in with Balis.<sup>29</sup>

Harold's older sister Thelma moved to Hamilton, Ohio, when she was in high school to live with an uncle. After graduating she worked as a babysitter and several other odd jobs so that she could save money and move her brother Harold to Hamilton to live with her. Harold was able to move to Hamilton and attended Hanover High School. He started school there as a freshman at the age of sixteen. He played on the basketball team and they did very well and won the championship game. He graduated from high school at the age of twenty and aspired to study veterinary medicine but was too poor to go to college. He met his future wife **Elaine Marie Sanders (1924-1993)** at a dance. The two started dating and a couple years later were married.

On Dec 7, 1941 the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Harold most likely looked to the newspapers for more information regarding the attack. In the *Evening Star* paper published on December 8 it read in giant letters across the front of the page "President signs declaration of war."<sup>30</sup> The paper recounts the Japanese attack, the loss of life, and President Roosevelt's words, "the people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the

---

<sup>28</sup> Personal knowledge of author.

<sup>29</sup> Elaine Brashear Taylor, interview.

<sup>30</sup> "President Signs Declaration of War." *The Evening Star*, December 8, 1941. Library of Congress: *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Accessed January 20, 2020. <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045462/1941-12-08/ed-1/seq-1/>

implications to the very life and safety of our Nation.”<sup>31</sup> Harold very likely read this or another reiteration of the same message because on the very next day he went and signed up for the Air Force at the age of twenty-one. He would never leave the county or see combat, as he was stationed in Tucson, Arizona, training men to be engineers on airplanes until the end of the war.

After the war Harold attended Miami University for two years, where he planned to study veterinary medicine. Unfortunately, he had a hard time with math and had to drop out. He worked at a laboratory for several years but had to quit as he started to get intense migraines from handling the chemicals in the lab. Elaine’s father Herman offered him a low-level position at the Butler Lumber Company that he owned, but Harold turned it down as he felt that as a family, he should be offered a better starting position. Harold owned his own gas station for a while but had a falling out with the regional manager. His daughter Carol said that Harold did not like people telling him what to do, so he continued to work odd jobs.<sup>32</sup> He bought his own small farm and kept many horses there, as he liked to race horses and spent most of his time at the race tracks. In 1972, he divorced Elaine and he rarely saw his children after that. He opened a bar in Indiana and married a waitress ten years his junior, though they would also later divorce. He died on November 4, 2008 at the age of 88.

**Joyce Carol Blackwell (1932- )** was born to **Alma Belle Wilmore (1914-2012)** and **Wallace Clarence Blackwell (1910-1989)** aged eighteen and twenty-one on August 13, 1932. She was the first child born to the couple, a mere three months after their marriage. They went on to have three more daughters named **Barbra Blackwell (1934- )**, **Shirley Blackwell (1937- )**, and **Brenda Blackwell (1944 -)**. Joyce grew up on a farm in Roanoke, Virginia. She hated living on a farm as she never like animals. She recalls being around five years old and a neighbor giving her a kitten to take home. Joyce made her put it in a paper bag, so she would not have to touch it! Joyce also recalled that in the wintertime her and her sisters liked to ice skate, but to make sure the ice was safe to skate on, they would send their younger sister Shirley out holding a large rock. Joyce also enjoyed going to the movie theater and people often remarked to Joyce that “they had seen her in the movies” due to her striking beauty and resemblance to movie star Elizabeth Taylor. Joyce’s favorite movie is “Gone with the Wind” and later in life

---

<sup>31</sup> “President Signs Declaration of War.”

<sup>32</sup> Carol Brashear Enderle, interview.

she collected “Gone with the Wind” figurines and pictures.<sup>33</sup>

Joyce was often sent to live with her aunt **Mary Francis Wilmer (1910-1976)** and her husband **Bedford Forest “Fuzzy” Martin (1915-2002)**<sup>34</sup> during the summer months. Fuzzy was an excellent banjo player and was courted by famous musicians Earl Scruggs and Lester Flatt. They asked him to join their band, but Fuzzy declined the offer and instead took a job setting up rayon plants across the southern United States. Francis and Fuzzy moved often, so when Joyce visited them it was usually in a new place. Joyce remembers visiting them in Norfolk, Virginia, one year. Frances and Fuzzy had no children of their own and they loved Joyce so much they wanted to adopt her. Joyce wanted to live with them, but Joyce’s mother Alma said no. When Frances was dying in the hospital from pneumonia in 1976, Joyce drove from Ohio to Roanoke, Virginia, to pick up Alma, and the two then drove to Anderson, South Carolina, to see her one last time. When Joyce arrived at the ICU, Frances saw her and had a huge smile on her face, even though she was unable to speak.<sup>35</sup> Frances meant a great deal to Joyce.

Joyce went to visit her cousin in Columbus, Ohio, one summer. Her cousin had a boyfriend and asked him to bring a date along for Joyce. He brought Harry with him. They ended up dating for several months, but Joyce went back to Virginia and Harry was drafted. After Harry returned from Korea he was stationed in Virginia for a few months and they rekindled their romance. A few months later they were married in Indiana.

**Harry Clyde Taylor (1929-2016)** was the eighth child born to and **Mary Alice Morris (1892-1959)** and **Harold Clyde Taylor (1881-1961)** at their home in Columbus, Ohio, on July 13, 1929. The couple would go on to have one more child, so Harry grew up with seven sisters and one brother. He was his parent’s favorite child and was very spoiled. They all lovingly called him Junior. In a letter written to him by his older sister Ruth on February 13, 1951 she wrote, “Dear Junior, after I wrote ‘Junior’ I knew you’d blow your top, but you’ll still be Junior when you’re fifty years old.”<sup>36</sup> His sister Viola wrote on February 16, 1951 to him, “Hi General,

---

<sup>33</sup> Personal knowledge of the author.

<sup>34</sup> “Virginia, Marriage Certificates, 1936-1988,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVB1-9J85> : 10 January 2019), A T Wilmer in entry for Bedford Forrest Martin and Mary Frances Wilmer, 16 Jul 1938; from “Virginia, Marriage Records, 1700-1850,” database and images, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 2012); citing Covington, , Virginia, United States, certificate 15461, Virginia Department of Health, Richmond.

<sup>35</sup> Joyce Carol Blackwell Taylor, interview with Erin Taylor March 18, 2020.

<sup>36</sup> Letter from Ruth Taylor to Harry Taylor dated February 13, 1951, from author’s personal collection.

(notice please that I omitted—Junior).”<sup>37</sup> Despite Harry’s obvious preference to not be called Junior, his family never stopped calling him that nickname.<sup>38</sup>

Harry lived next door to his best friend, **Richard ‘Dick’ Melvin (1929-1953)** and they would make money mowing lawns in the summertime. In 1947 he graduated from Columbus West High School. He purchased a Buick with the money he had saved up and took meticulous care of his car. Dick’s older brother Melvin worked in construction, so he was able to get Dick and Harry jobs at the Baker and Hickey Construction Company in Columbus.<sup>39</sup>

Two of his siblings served in World War II. His older sister **Beatrice June Taylor (1920-1990)** was a secretary in the navy. She was stationed in Pensacola, Florida and California during the war. June, as her family called her, later worked in Los Angeles at a movie studio for a year as a secretary where she once met Cary Grant. Harry’s brother **Charles W. Taylor (1922-1991)** joined the army on December 4, 1942 and was awarded two battle stars and a good conduct medal. He was stationed in Europe and the Pacific and was in the military police.<sup>40</sup>

Harry was drafted into the army during the Korean War and served from January 10, 1951 to October 9, 1952. He went to basic training in Kentucky and drove home as often as he could to see his family. His mother and sisters wrote to him constantly and gave him updates on his car, ensuring him that they were taking good care of it. Harry was shipped to Korea on the USS General M.M Patrick and suffered terrible seasickness on the voyage over. The ship first stopped in Yokohama, Japan, and Harry and the other men all disembarked and took a train to Osaka, where they boarded the same ship they had originally gotten off in Yokohama! Then from Osaka, they sailed on to Korea. Harry was originally placed in the infantry and went through infantry training, but once he was in Asia, they moved him to the Army Corps of Engineers because he had some background in construction.<sup>41</sup> He made several close friends and one African American friend named Jim, who appears in countless photos Harry kept from the war. According to *The Detroit Tribune*, “the Army has completely integrated white and Negro troops in all fighting units in Korea...”<sup>42</sup> Despite making close friends, Harry hated

---

<sup>37</sup> Letter from Viola Taylor to Harry Taylor dated February 16, 1951, from author’s personal collection.

<sup>38</sup> Charles Michael Taylor, interview.

<sup>39</sup> Charles Michael Taylor, interview.

<sup>40</sup> Charles Michael Taylor, interview.

<sup>41</sup> Charles Michael Taylor, interview.

<sup>42</sup> “Army Integrates Troops in Korea.” *The Detroit Tribune*, August 4, 1951. Library of Congress: Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Accessed January 22, 2020. <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn92063852/1951-08-04/ed-1/seq-1/>

Korea and said he had never been so cold in his life. Harry's best friend Dick enlisted in the army on December 28, 1951. Dick went through basic and leadership training in Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, and arrived in Korea on October 28, 1952.<sup>43</sup> When Harry returned home, he married **Joyce Blackwell (1932- )** on September 20, 1952. A few months later Dick was killed in action on January 8, 1953 at the age of twenty-three.<sup>44</sup> Harry was deeply upset by his best friend's unexpected passing.

Harry and Joyce welcomed their first child **Deborah Taylor (1953- )** in 1953 in Chillicothe, Ohio, followed by **Charles Michael Taylor (1954- )** in October of 1954 in Columbus, Ohio, and then **Dinah Lynn Taylor (1957-2006)** also in Columbus, Ohio. The family traveled a lot, especially in the summertime. They would travel all over the eastern and southern United States.

Harry having spent time in construction before the war, started working in construction again when he returned home. He quickly moved up and worked most of his life for The National Engineering and Contracting Company, retiring in 1992.<sup>45</sup> During his time with the company he moved all over Ohio and worked on a myriad of projects like the Lytle Park tunnel in Cincinnati, a sewer treatment plant near Lower Price Hill, a train station at the Cleveland airport, a nuclear powerplant near Perry (along with his son Mike, as he helped out in the summertime), a dam in Hamilton on the river, the four lane bridge on 275 along Indiana and Kentucky, among many other projects.<sup>46</sup> After his retirement he enjoyed going to casinos, and gambling on horse races. He even purchased his own horses to race at River Downs in Cincinnati, where his daughter in law's father Harold Brashear also raced horses. Harry died in 2016 at the age of eighty-eight.

---

<sup>43</sup> "2 More Local Servicemen Killed in Korea," newspaper clipping from the author's collection.

<sup>44</sup> "United States Korean War Battle Deaths, 1950-1957," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KXCS-T4Q> : 12 December 2014), Richard C Melvin, 08 Jan 1953; citing Korea, service number 15471837, reference 16481, Records of Military Personnel Who Died as a Result of Hostilities During the Korean War, compiled ca 1977-11/1979, documenting the period 01/01/1950-02/07/1957, NARA NAID 571686, National Archives at College Park, Maryland.

<sup>45</sup> Charles Michael Taylor, interview.

<sup>46</sup> Charles Michael Taylor, interview.

## Generation Four

**A1a1a. Mary Margaret Beer (1893-1965)**

**A1a1b. Herman Lawrence Sanders (1894-1983)**

**A1a2a. Mabel Belle Combs (1896-1989)**

**A1a2b. Elias Brashear (1895-1971)**

**A1b1a. Alma Belle Wilmer (1914-2012)**

**A1b1b. Wallace Clarence Blackwell (1910-1989)**

**A1b2a. Mary Alice Morris (1892-1959)**

**A1b2b. Harry Clyde Taylor (1881-1961)**

**Herman Lawrence Sanders (1894-1983)** was born to **Anna Barbara Wellinghoff (1861-1934)** and **Herman Henry Sanders (1854-1924)** in Eaton, Ohio. Herman left Eaton at the age of sixteen and moved to Hamilton, where he worked at a lumber company. He lived in Hamilton for most of his adult life. The city of Hamilton is located just 20 miles north of Cincinnati. The city first began as a small fort named after Alexander Hamilton and built by General Arthur St. Clair in 1791, but by the 1850s Hamilton had developed into a significant manufacturing city producing vaults, machine tools, paper, locomotives, automobile parts, and many other goods.<sup>47</sup> It is here that Herman started his own company in 1912, called Butler County Lumber Company located on Main Street. Herman's business thrived. On October 15, 1913 Herman married **Mary Margaret Beer (1893-1965)**.<sup>48</sup> Herman and Mary first rented a home at 412 South G Street in Hamilton, for a number of years before being able to purchase their permanent home at 924 Park Avenue in Hamilton, valued at \$12,000 in 1930.<sup>49</sup> According to Herman's granddaughter Micky, during the great depression Herman was wealthy enough to loan money to people unable to secure bank loans, though he did this at an exorbitant interest rate.<sup>50</sup>

Herman also owned a home in the country, which his grandchildren referred to as "camp."

---

<sup>47</sup> Wikipedia. "Hamilton, Ohio." Last modified February 14, 2020. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamilton,\\_Ohio](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamilton,_Ohio)

<sup>48</sup> "Ohio Marriages, 1800-1958", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XDCZ-4D8> : 20 January 2020), Herman Sanders in entry for Herman Sanders, 1913.

<sup>49</sup> "United States Census, 1930," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4SC-NQ6> : accessed 18 February 2020), Herman L Sanders, Hamilton, Butler, Ohio, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 8, sheet 23A, line 80, family 605, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 1753; FHL microfilm 2,341,487.

<sup>50</sup> Elaine Brashear Taylor, interview.

He also purchased a home in Florida and owned a boat. Herman and his wife enjoyed traveling and went to Europe on several occasions. On one trip they even brought their own priest with them as they were traveling to meet the Pope in Rome!<sup>51</sup>

When Mary died in 1965, Herman married his secretary. Herman lived to be eighty-eight years old and passed away January 7, 1983. Hamilton's manufacturing industry in the 20<sup>th</sup> century was in a steep decline as factories were relocated offshore and many lost their jobs.<sup>52</sup> Despite this downturn in industry, the Butler Lumber Company has remained in business for over 108 years and is still thriving today. It is now run by the third generation of Sanders.

**Mabel Belle Combs (1896-1989)** was born in Viper, Kentucky, to **Belle Fletcher (1872-1954)** and **Balis Combs (1858-1942)**. According to the 1900 census Mabel lived with her parents and three older brothers in Troublesome, Kentucky.<sup>53</sup> Her father was a farmer and owned his own farm. Mabel met **Elias Brashear (1895-1971)** also from Perry, Kentucky, and the two were married around 1917. They had two children together **Thelma Brashear (1918-2006)** and **Harold Brashear (1920-2008)**. According to her daughter Thelma, her mother left them when their parents broke up. Mabel went to Chicago for a time but had returned by 1930 as the census lists her and her two children living with her father Balis, her mother Belle, her brother and his wife and their four children.<sup>54</sup> The census also shows that Mabel was not working, though her seventy-two years old father was working as a salesman in the general store along with her brother and his wife. Mabel later married **Charles Cleveland Dowd (1892-1964)** before sometime before 1940, after his first wife passed away from an illegal abortion.<sup>55</sup> The 1940 census shows Mabel, Charles, her son Harold, and Charles' two young sons **Jack Dowd (1933- )** and **Ralph Dowd (1934- )** living in Butler Co., Ohio.<sup>56</sup> Erin remembers going with her grandfather Harold to visit his step-brother Jack and his wife Chloe on their farm in Indiana.

---

<sup>51</sup> Mary Margaret Beer's European diary, author's personal collection.

<sup>52</sup> Wikipedia. "Hamilton, Ohio."

<sup>53</sup> "United States Census, 1900," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M9HV-DV2> : accessed 21 April 2020), Mabel Cowles in household of Balis Cowles, Magisterial District 1, Hindman Hindman town, Knott, Kentucky, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 43, sheet 22B, family 338, NARA microfilm publication T623 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1972.); FHL microfilm 1,240,536.

<sup>54</sup> "United States Census, 1930," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XMFK-F53> : accessed 21 April 2020), Mabel Combs in household of Bayless Combs, Hazard, Perry, Kentucky, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 16, sheet 19A, line 10, family 329, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 774; FHL microfilm 2,340,509.

<sup>55</sup> Elaine Brashear Taylor, interview.

<sup>56</sup> 1940 Census, from author's private collection.

There Erin and her sister Laura fished in their large pond, rode four wheelers, picked berries, and made homemade ice-cream. Visiting Jack and Chloe was always a fun time.

Mabel passed away on December 27, 1989 at the age of ninety-three.<sup>57</sup>

**Elias Brashear (1895-1971)** was born on August 16, 1895 to **Elizabeth Pratt (1852-1924)** and **James Nicholas Brashear (1835-1920)**.<sup>58</sup> The 1900 census shows that Elias lived with his parents in a home they owned themselves, along with six siblings that were still at home in Perry, Kentucky.<sup>59</sup>

Elias was just four years old when his older brother **Sampson B. Brashear (1878-1918)** left to serve in the Philippine-American War in 1899. He served there for several years and eventually stayed on to teach in the Philippines. In 1918 Sampson enlisted in the army to fight in World War I. He traveled from Camp Zachary Taylor in Louisville, Kentucky, to Camp Sherman in Ohio, and then deployed to Great Britain. From there he went to France. In a letter dated September 22, 1918 Sampson wrote about his desire for the war to end, "I am looking into the future optimistic in the belief that this world catastrophe is going to end happily, not only for us Americans, but for the whole world."<sup>60</sup> In another letter dated October 17, 1918, Sampson seemed less optimistic than before writing, "I have traveled over much of France; have served in three regiments and in two different companies of one regiment; have camped or billeted in five different places in six days' time; have moved at night on short notice; have gone thru a world of mud; have not seen the sun for six days; have been in the rain much of four days; have not undressed more than to take off my shoes for five days. I have been in hearing of the big guns for some time and expect to be in range of them soon."<sup>61</sup> Unfortunately, Sampson was killed in the Battle of the Meuse-Argonne on October 24, when a shell dropped directly in front of him. He is buried in the largest American cemetery in France, the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery.

---

<sup>57</sup> Find A Grave. "Mabel Combs Dowd." Accessed April 21, 2020. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/162556374>

<sup>58</sup> Find a Grave. "Eli S. Brashear." Accessed January 29, 2020. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/98429080/eli-s-brashear>

<sup>59</sup> "United States Census, 1900," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M9HG-KZJ> : accessed 13 February 2020), Elias Brasheas in household of James N Brasheas, Magisterial District 6, Masons Creek, Perry, Kentucky, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 97, sheet 6A, family 88, NARA microfilm publication T623 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1972.); FHL microfilm 1,240,548.

<sup>60</sup> Waukesha Lowe Sammons, "World War I, the Great War to End All Wars (1917-1918)," Perry County Kentucky Military Legacy, February 13, 2020, <http://www.perrycountykentuckymilitarylegacy.com/a15--world-war-i--a---c.html>

<sup>61</sup> Sammons, "World War I, the Great War to End All Wars (1917-1918)."



Elias married **Mabel Belle Combs (1896-1989)**, also from Perry, Kentucky, around 1917 as their daughter **Thelma Brashear (1918-2006)** was born on April 24, 1918.<sup>62</sup> Their son **Harold Brashear (1920-2008)** was born on May 15, 1920 in Hazard, Kentucky. Hazard is located in Perry County and was isolated by the surrounding mountains, as it took over two weeks to reach via the Kentucky River, until 1912 when the railroad arrived.<sup>63</sup> Elias took advantage of the work the railroad brought to Hazard and he worked as a conductor, eventually retiring from the railroad. The couple divorced before 1925, and Elias married **Ester Grigsby (1908-1990)** and had four children together **Wilmer David Brashear (1925-1990)**,<sup>64</sup> **Lita Brashear (1931- )**, **Genevieve Brashear (1932-unknown)**, and **Elizabeth Kay Brashear (1935-unknown)**. Elias passed away on April 28, 1971.<sup>65</sup>

**Alma Belle Wilmer (1914-2012)** was the daughter of **Laura Victoria Wilmore (1875-1953)** and **Andrew Tilton Wilmer (1876-1936)**. Alma was born in Amherst Co., Virginia, and grew up on a farm as her father Tilton was a farmer. She was raised in a large family, as she had eleven siblings. They were **Bernard Wilmer (1896-1972)**, **Henry Wilmer (1897-unknown)**, **James Gorman Wilmer (1899-1964)**, **Alonza Wilmer (1901-1963)**, **Maggie Wilmer (1903-1988)**, **John Henry Wilmer (1905-1990)**, **Andrew Jasper Wilmer (1908-1970)**, **Mary Francis “Sissie” Wilmer (1910-1976)**, **Thelma Wilmer (1912-2001)**, **William Leslie Wilmer (1916-1944)** and **Hazel Maxine Wilmer (1919-2012)**.<sup>66</sup>

Alma married **Wallace Clarence Blackwell (1910-1989)** in 1932. They had three children together **Joyce Carol Blackwell (1932- )**, **Barbra Blackwell (1934- )**, and **Shirley Blackwell (1937- )**. Alma’s daughter Joyce remembers that her mother worked in a factory. She often heard her parents fight and one day Alma had Joyce and her two sisters pack their things and left their father. Later they reconciled but their fight, as Joyce later found out, was because Alma was pregnant with another man’s child. This man had worked at the same factory as her, though she never disclosed his name. Alma gave birth to **Brenda Blackwell (1944 -)** and Wallace took care of her as if she were his own child. The couple divorced in the 1950s, and

---

<sup>62</sup> “Thelma Berglund.” Journal News Obituaries. Accessed February 13, 2020.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/hamilton/obituary.aspx?n=thelma-berglund&pid=17727721>

<sup>63</sup> Wikipedia. “Hazard, Kentucky.” Last modified February 18, 2020. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hazard,\\_Kentucky](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hazard,_Kentucky)

<sup>64</sup> Find A Grave. “Wilmer David Brashear.” Accessed April 25, 2020. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/128085040>

<sup>65</sup> Find A Grave. “Eli S. Brashear.”

<sup>66</sup> Charles Michael Taylor, interview.

Alma married a doctor named Frank Freedman.<sup>67</sup> She died in 2012 at the age of ninety-eight.

**Wallace Clarence Blackwell (1910-1989)** was born to **Olive Eugenia Hill (1882-1975)** and **John W. Blackwell (1863-1924)** on July 21, 1910.<sup>68</sup> The 1920 census shows that Wallace lived with his parents and four siblings in a home his father John owned in Roanoke, Virginia.<sup>69</sup> Wallace had only attended school until the seventh grade. He worked in the logging industry, as Roanoke is located in a valley between the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Allegheny Mountains, which has many parks and places for people to enjoy hiking, mountain biking, canoeing, and other outdoor activities.<sup>70</sup> One day Wallace let a newcomer drive the truck transporting lumber down the steep, windy mountain road. The man veered off the road and the truck flipped. Wallace sustained a major injury to his head and almost died. He had to recuperate for months in the hospital, and his daughter Joyce remembers that after that incident he was never quite right.<sup>71</sup>

Wallace married his second wife in August of 1960, her name was Hortense Gladys Barker. While he was married to Hortense, he worked as a gas station attendant. He married his third wife Mary Moneta Baker Epperly on May 13, 1970 and divorced on September 3, 1974.<sup>72</sup> Mary cited desertion as her reason for filing for divorce. He married his fourth and final wife Lillie Marie White Snead in 1978, they remained married until his death.

Wallace moved into the Richfield Nursing home, where he later died on September 23, 1989. His causes of death were given as sepsis and respiratory infection. His death certificate also notes that he had seizure disorder and organic brain syndrome.<sup>73</sup>

**Mary Alice Morris (1892-1959)** was born on July 18, 1892 to **Viola May Ater (1873-1943)** and **Charles C. Morris (1867-1927)** in Ross, Ohio.<sup>74</sup> Mary had an older brother named

---

<sup>67</sup> Charles Michael Taylor, interview.

<sup>68</sup> "Commonwealth of Virginia Death Certificate: Wallace Clarence Blackwell," authors personal collection.

<sup>69</sup> "United States Census, 1920," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MJV9-NW5> : accessed 24 February 2020), Wallace C Blackwell in household of John W Blackwell, Salem, Roanoke, Virginia, United States; citing ED 124, sheet 21A, line 6, family 361, NARA microfilm publication T625 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1992), roll 1908; FHL microfilm 1,821,908.

<sup>70</sup> Wikipedia. "Roanoke, Virginia." Last modified February 18, 2020. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roanoke,\\_Virginia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roanoke,_Virginia)

<sup>71</sup> Joyce Carol Blackwell Taylor, interview.

<sup>72</sup> "Report of Divorce or Annulment," author's personal collection.

<sup>73</sup> "Commonwealth of Virginia Death Certificate: Wallace Clarence Blackwell."

<sup>74</sup> "Ohio Births and Christenings, 1821-1962", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XX7F-X4F> : 19 January 2020), Mary A. Morris, 1892.

**Thomas Morris (1890-1919)**, younger sisters **Bertha Morris (1895-1910)**, **Gladys Morris (1897-1974)**, **Helen Gertrude Morris (1901-1910)**, **Margaret Morris (1904-1962)**, and a younger brother **William Morris (1909-unknown)**.<sup>75</sup>

Typhoid fever struck the household in the fall of 1910. Mary, Bertha, and Helen all became ill and were confined to their rooms. Bertha passed away on October 19, at just fifteen years of age<sup>76</sup> and according to Mary's son Harry, Bertha's body was carried out through the window, so her sisters did not see that she had passed away.<sup>77</sup> Helen died on October 27, just two days after her ninth birthday.<sup>78</sup> In 1914, just a few years after their untimely deaths, a typhoid vaccine became readily available to the public. The *Commonwealth* newspaper interviewed a Reverend on the importance of getting the new vaccine saying, "I am both grieved and angered when I hear of the death of some person in the prime of life and vigor with promise for a useful future being taken away..."<sup>79</sup> Fortunately for Mary her life was not cut short as she survived typhoid and made a full recovery.

On June 13, 1913 twenty-year old Mary married thirty-two-year old **Harry Clyde Taylor (1881-1961)** in Ross, Ohio.<sup>80</sup> They had nine children together. Mary died in 1959 in Columbus, Ohio.

**Harry Clyde Taylor (1881-1961)** was the eleventh and final child born to **Mary Ann Bennet (1838-1916)** and **Jonathan Taylor (1832-1911)** in Ross, Ohio. The 1910 census shows that nineteen-year-old Harry was living at home, working on his father's farm alongside four of his older brothers.<sup>81</sup> In 1913 Harold married **Mary Alice Morris (1892-1959)**. They had their first four children in Ross, Ohio before moving to Columbus. The 1920 census shows Harry

---

<sup>75</sup> Charles Michael Taylor, interview.

<sup>76</sup> "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X882-9F4> : 15 August 2019), Bertha Elizabeth Morris, 13 Oct 1910; citing Perry, Pickaway, Ohio, reference fn 57463; FHL microfilm 1,952,610.

<sup>77</sup> Personal knowledge of the author.

<sup>78</sup> Find A Grave. "Helen Gertrude Morris." Accessed February 5, 2020. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/176736619>

<sup>79</sup> "Colleges Fight Typhoid." *The Commonwealth*, August 27, 1914. Library of Congress: Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Accessed February 5, 2020. <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn92073908/1914-08-27/ed-1/seq-1/>

<sup>80</sup> "Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2013," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:2Q4Y-HLN>: 26 August 2019), Harry C Taylor and Mary Alice Morris, 12 Jun 1913; citing Marriage, Ross, Ohio, United States, , Franklin County Genealogical & Historical Society, Columbus; FHL microfilm.

<sup>81</sup> "United States Census, 1900," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MM6K-W3D> : accessed 27 April 2020), Harry Taylor in household of Johnathon Taylor, Monroe township Five Points village, Pickaway, Ohio, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 109, sheet 13B, family 261, NARA microfilm publication T623 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1972.); FHL microfilm 1,241,313.

working as a laborer in a sawmill in Ross.<sup>82</sup> According to his grandson Mike, Harry and his siblings sold their father's farm when he died in 1911.<sup>83</sup> In the 1930 census, Harry and his family were in Columbus, Ohio living at 1532 Walsh Ave in a rented home. He worked as laborer at an oil station. His house was full as he lived with his wife, eight children, a boarder, his sister-in-law and his mother-in-law.<sup>84</sup> By 1940, Harry had purchased the home he had been renting in the 1930s census. He was now working as a laborer in a dairy plant, and was living with his wife, nine children, son-in-law, and two grandchildren.<sup>85</sup> Harry's daughter June wrote to her brother Harry while he was in the army complaining about their sister Ruth, her husband and their children still living in the house with all of them. June wrote on April 5, 1951, "They still talk of moving...they will really have a time managing when they move—they won't have all that extra money and someone to always borrow from...Sure will make it nicer for Mom as she may have a little time to call her own."<sup>86</sup>

Mike remembers that Harry always carried a giant wad of money in his pocket, because he distrusted banks after he lost a lot of money during the great depression. Mike said Harry worked as a night watchman at a plant that made milk into the 1950s.<sup>87</sup>

On June 17, 1961, Harry's daughter June was the only one home and she was outside doing yard work. When she came back in the house, she found Harry face down on the ground, dead.<sup>88</sup> His wife Mary had died two years before him.

---

<sup>82</sup> "United States Census, 1920," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MDGG-XV7> : accessed 27 April 2020), Harry C Taylor, Deerfield, Ross, Ohio, United States; citing ED 116, sheet 3B, line 53, family 77, NARA microfilm publication T625 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1992), roll 1431; FHL microfilm 1,821,431.

<sup>83</sup> Charles Michael Taylor, interview.

<sup>84</sup> "United States Census, 1930," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X47Q-6KX> : accessed 27 April 2020), Harry C Taylor, Columbus, Franklin, Ohio, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 228, sheet 10B, line 68, family 155, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 1798; FHL microfilm 2,341,532.

<sup>85</sup> "United States Census, 1940," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KW8H-ZCM> : 29 July 2019), Harry C Taylor, Ward 10, Columbus City, Montgomery Township, Franklin, Ohio, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 93-177, sheet 7A, line 34, family 152, 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 3245.

<sup>86</sup> Letter from June Taylor to Harry Taylor dated April 5, 1951, author's personal collection.

<sup>87</sup> Charles Michael Taylor, interview.

<sup>88</sup> Charles Michael Taylor, interview.

## Generation Five

**A1a1a1. Margaret Zettler (1855-1940)**

**A1a1a2. Frank Beer (1855-1934)**

**A1a1b1. Anna Barbara Wellinghoff (1861-1934)**

**A1a1b2. Herman Henry Sanders (1854-1924)**

**A1a2a1. Belle Fletcher (1872-1954)**

**A1a2a2. Balis Combs (1858-1942)**

**A1a2b1. Elizabeth Pratt (1852-1924)**

**A1a2b2. James Nicholas Brashear (1835-1920)**

**A1b1a1. Laura Victoria Wilmore (1875-1953)**

**A1b1a2. Andrew Tilton Wilmer (1876-1936)**

**A1b1b1. Olive Eugenia Hill (1882-1975)**

**A1b1b2. John W. Blackwell (1863-1924)**

**A1b2a1. Viola May Ater (1873-1943)**

**A1b2a2. Charles C. Morris (1867-1927)**

**A1b2b1. Mary Ann Bennet (1838-1916)**

**A1b2b2. Jonathan Taylor (1832-1911)**

**Margaret Zettler (1855-1940)** was born to **Elizabeth Balbach (1824-1898)** and **George Jacob Zettler (1824-1915)** on August 11, 1855.<sup>89</sup> Her father George was born in Rheine Pfalz, Bavaria, Germany and moved to Hamilton, Ohio, in his late twenties.<sup>90</sup> He worked as a tailor. Margaret's mother Elizabeth was also born in Germany and immigrated to Hamilton. Margaret married **Frank Beer (1855-1934)** on June 3, 1879 in Butler Co., Ohio.<sup>91</sup> She died at the age of eighty-five after a ten weeklong illness at Mercy Hospital. Her obituary also stated that she was a member of one of Hamilton's best-known families.<sup>92</sup>

---

<sup>89</sup> Find A Grave. "Margaret Mary Zettler Beer." Accessed March 3, 2020. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/75235801>

<sup>90</sup> Find a Grave. "George Jacob Zettler." Accessed March 3, 2020. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/99024203/george-jacob-zettler>

<sup>91</sup> "Ohio Marriages, 1800-1958", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XDF7-R97> : 20 January 2020), Maggie Zettler in entry for Frank Bee, 1879.

<sup>92</sup> Find A Grave. "Margaret Mary Zettler Beer."

**Frank Beer (1855-1934)** was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and moved to Hamilton with his parents a young age.<sup>93</sup> His parents' names are not known, but according to the 1880 census they were both born in Germany.<sup>94</sup> Frank worked at a spoke and hub factory for a number of years but by 1910, he was listed as working as a laborer in a paper mill.<sup>95</sup> Frank died on January 7, 1934 at Mercy Hospital and his obituary mentioned that he was a devout Catholic and one of the founders of St. Peter's Church.<sup>96</sup>

**Anna Barbara Wellinghoff (1861-1934)** was born in Eaton, Ohio, in 1864. Her mother **Mary Ann Tabler (1842-1883)** was born in Ohio,<sup>97</sup> though her mother's father **Theodore Tabler (1810-1873)** was from Oldenburg, Germany.<sup>98</sup> Anna's father **Bernard Henry Wellinghoff (1834-1914)** was from Hanover, Germany. Her father was a stonecutter<sup>99</sup> and often worked in St. Stephens's Cemetery carving gravestones. Anna married **Herman Henry Sanders (1854-1924)** in 1881. They had nine children: **Joseph Henry Sanders (1882-1926)**, **Clara Margaret Sanders (1883-1949)**, **Charles Kasper Sanders (1895-1950)**, **Leo Cornelius Sanders (1888-1959)**, **Francis Thomas Sanders (1890-1953)**, **Herman Lawrence Sanders (1894-1983)**, **Edward William Sanders (1895-1945)**, **Anna Marie Sanders (1897-1966)**, and **George Cyril Sanders (1899-1966)**.<sup>100</sup> Anna died in Hamilton on July 21, 1934.<sup>101</sup>

**Herman Henry Sanders (1854-1924)** was born in Hanover, Germany, his parents' names are not known. According to the 1920 census, Herman immigrated to the United States in 1875 and was naturalized in 1879.<sup>102</sup> He worked as a foreman at a sawmill and later a manager

---

<sup>93</sup> Find A Grave. "Frank Beer." Accessed March 3, 2020. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/75235800/frank-beer>

<sup>94</sup> 1880 Census, from author's personal collection.

<sup>95</sup> 1910 Census, from author's personal collection.

<sup>96</sup> Find A Grave. "Frank Beer."

<sup>97</sup> "United States Census, 1870", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M6KZ-5TK> : 14 June 2019), Anna Wellinghoff in entry for Barney Wellinghoff, 1870.

<sup>98</sup> Find A Grave. "Theodore H "Derrick" Tabler." Accessed February 25, 2020. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/65519538/theodore-h-tabler>

<sup>99</sup> "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X8XF-QRZ> : 15 August 2019), Bernard H Wellinghoff, 19 Aug 1914; citing Hamilton, Butler, Ohio, reference fn 42899; FHL microfilm 1,953,920.

<sup>100</sup> Find A Grave. "Anna Barbara Wellinghoff Sanders." Accessed February 20, 2020.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/116177677/anna-barbara-sanders>

<sup>101</sup> Find A Grave. "Anna Barbara Wellinghoff Sanders."

<sup>102</sup> "United States Census, 1920," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MDRX-JV9> : accessed 25 February 2020), Herman H Sanders, Eaton Ward 4, Preble, Ohio, United States; citing ED 266, sheet 2A, line 18, family 30, NARA

at a lumber mill in Eaton, Ohio. Herman married **Anna Barbara Wellinghoff (1861-1934)** on May 24, 1881.<sup>103</sup> They had nine children together between the years 1882 to 1899.<sup>104</sup> Herman's middle son also named Herman, followed in his father's footsteps and worked at a lumber mill before opening his own lumber mill in Hamilton.

**Belle Fletcher (1872-1954)** was born to **Martha Baker (1851-unknown)** and **William Fletcher (1835-unknown)**. Belle's father William was born in Tennessee according to the 1870 census,<sup>105</sup> however she lists her father's birthplace as Virginia in the 1910 census.<sup>106</sup> The 1870 census also states that he was a school teacher and married to Martha, with a two month old baby named **Ella Fletcher (1870-1950)** in Breathitt, Kentucky. Belle was born two years later in 1872, followed by **Laura Fletcher (1876 -1904)**.<sup>107</sup> Before 1880 her parents must have passed away, because the 1880 census shows the girls living with their grandfather **Isaac Baker (1814-1912)**.<sup>108</sup> Belle married **Balis Combs (1858-1942)** on January 6, 1888 in Perry, Kentucky.<sup>109</sup> Her two sisters also married men with the last name of Combs.<sup>110</sup> Belle and Balis had five children together, according to the 1910 census, but only three were still alive—**Everett Combs (1889-1973)**, **John Combs (1894-unknown)**, and **Mable Belle Combs (1896-1989)**.<sup>111</sup> One of the children that died was **Levi Combs (1891-unknown)**, as he is listed in the 1900 census but is

---

microfilm publication T625 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1992), roll 1428; FHL microfilm 1,821,428.

<sup>103</sup> "Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2013," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X8DH-7T5>; 26 August 2019), Herman H. Sanders and Anna B. Wellinghoff, 24 May 1881; citing Marriage, Preble, Ohio, United States, Pg. #356 Lic.#, Franklin County Genealogical & Historical Society, Columbus; FHL microfilm.

<sup>104</sup> Find A Grave. "Herman H. Sanders." Accessed February 25, 2020. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/116177679/herman-h-sanders>

<sup>105</sup> 1870 Census, from author's personal collection.

<sup>106</sup> "United States Census, 1920," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MHLT-HPY> : accessed 3 March 2020), Bell Combs in household of Balis Combs, Lower Troublesome, Knott, Kentucky, United States; citing ED 49, sheet 5A, line 41, family 77, NARA microfilm publication T625 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1992), roll 577; FHL microfilm 1,820,577.

<sup>107</sup> Find A Grave. "Laura Fletcher Combs." Accessed April 24, 2020. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/137960486>

<sup>108</sup> 1880 census, from author's personal collection.

<sup>109</sup> "Kentucky, County Marriages, 1797-1954," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QKJ9-JZK2> : 17 May 2018), Balis W Combs and Bell Fletcher, 6 Jan 1888; citing Marriage, Perry, Kentucky, United States, various county clerks and county courts, Kentucky; FHL microfilm 968,277.

<sup>110</sup> Find A Grave. "Ella Fletcher Combs." Accessed April 25, 2020. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/145446276>

<sup>111</sup> "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M2DN-R99> : accessed 25 April 2020), Balis Combs, Troublesome, Knott, Kentucky, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 86, sheet 4A, family 63, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 482; FHL microfilm 1,374,495.

not on the census from 1910.<sup>112</sup> The second child that died is unknown, as they are not listed on any census records and there is no death certificate available.

**Balis Combs (1858-1942)** was the son of **Sylvania Grigsby (1827-1902)** and **Levi Combs (1828-1882)**. He was born on July 9, 1858 in Perry, Kentucky, and both of his parents were also from the area.<sup>113</sup> He was the third of eleven children born to the couple and his siblings were: **Mariah Combs (1849-1911)**<sup>114</sup>, **Louisa Combs (1851-1929)**, **Nancy Combs (1853-1941)**, **Winnie Combs (1860-1929)**, **John Combs (1863-1911)**, **Anna Combs (1864-1952)**, **Mary Combs (1865-unknown)**, **Amanda Combs, (1866-unknown)**, **Orlena Combs (1869-unknown)** and **Malvina Malory Combs (1873-1934)**.<sup>115</sup> According to the 1880 census, Levi worked as a farmer, Sylvania kept house and it was noted that she was unable to read or write, as was her twenty-five year old daughter Nancy, her nineteen year old daughter Winnie and her fifteen year old daughter Mary.<sup>116</sup> In this census, Balis is listed as a farm laborer and was living at home with his parents and seven of his siblings. On January 6, 1888 he married **Belle Fletcher (1872-1954)**. He continued to work as a farmer until sometime before 1930, as that census shows him working as a salesman in a general store.<sup>117</sup>

**Laura Victoria Wilmore (1875-1953)** was born June 24, 1875 in Amherst, Virginia, to **Leanna Frances Nuckles (1845-1920)** and **William Wilmore (1847-1925)**.<sup>118</sup> The 1880 census shows the family living in Buchanan, Virginia, just outside of Roanoke.<sup>119</sup> Laura married

---

<sup>112</sup> "United States Census, 1900," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M9HV-DVF> : accessed 25 April 2020), Balis Cowles, Magisterial District 1, Hindman Hindman town, Knott, Kentucky, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 43, sheet 22B, family 338, NARA microfilm publication T623 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1972.); FHL microfilm 1,240,536.

<sup>113</sup> "Kentucky Births and Christenings, 1839-1960", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FWV3-T8Z> : 14 January 2020), Levi Combs in entry for Bulis Combs, 1858.

<sup>114</sup> Find A Grave. "Mariah Combs Stacy." Accessed April 24, 2020. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/74235653>

<sup>115</sup> Find A Grave. "Levi Combs." Accessed April 24, 2020. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/96853000>

<sup>116</sup> "United States Census, 1880," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MCZG-V71> : 7 September 2017), Balis Combs in household of Levi Combs, District 5, Perry, Kentucky, United States; citing enumeration district ED 82, sheet 555C, NARA microfilm publication T9 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.), FHL microfilm 1,254,438.

<sup>117</sup> "United States Census, 1930," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XMFK-FP1> : accessed 25 April 2020), Bayless Combs, Hazard, Perry, Kentucky, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 16, sheet 19A, line 6, family 329, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 774; FHL microfilm 2,340,509.

<sup>118</sup> "Virginia Births and Christenings, 1584-1917", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VR5Y-PT9> : 28 January 2020), Victoria Willmore, 1875.

<sup>119</sup> "United States Census, 1880," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MCP2-Z5P> : 16 July 2017), Laura V Wilmore in household of William A Wilmore, Buchanan, Botetourt, Virginia, United States; citing enumeration district



**Andrew Tilton Wilmer (1877-1936)** in 1895. The two were related as Tilton's great-grandfather was **Reuben Willmore (1798-1878)** and Laura's grandfather was also Reuben.<sup>120</sup> A year after their marriage Laura gave birth to a son named **Bernard Wilmer (1896-1972)**, followed by **Henry B. Wilmer (1897-unknown)**, **James Gorman Wilmer (1899-1964)**, **Alonza Wilmer (1901-1963)**, **Maggie Wilmer (1903-1988)**, **John Henry Wilmer (1905-1990)**, **Andrew Jasper Wilmer (1908-1970)**, **Mary Frances Wilmer (1910-1976)**, **Thelma Wilmer (1912-2001)**, **Alma Belle Wilmer (1914-2012)**, **William Leslie Wilmer (1916-1944)** and **Hazel Maxine Wilmer (1919-2012)**.<sup>121</sup>

Laura's husband Tilton worked as a farmer for many years, and later as a taxi driver before his death at the age of fifty-nine.<sup>122</sup> After he died Laura moved in with her son Henry and his wife and two children.<sup>123</sup> Laura passed away at in Covington, Virginia, at the age of seventy-eight on September 7, 1953 due to a cerebral hemorrhage.<sup>124</sup>

**Andrew Tilton Wilmer (1877-1936)** was born in Amherst, Virginia, and was the son of **Josianna Wilmore (1857-1919)**. His father is unknown, but according to family lore, Tilton, as he was called, was given to the Wilmore family by a wealthy family to raise, as he was illegitimate. Perhaps part of the rumor is true, and Tilton's father was from a wealthy family, but unfortunately if there was any documentation it is long lost, as the courthouse burned down in the 1900s. Tilton was most likely Josianna's biological child as the 1880 census lists Josianna's father **Robert O. Wilmore (1831-1891)** as head of the household, Josianna as his daughter and

---

ED 12, sheet 127B, NARA microfilm publication T9 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.), FHL microfilm 1,255,356.

<sup>120</sup> Ann Wilmer, "Wilmores of Amherst County, Virginia," March 16, 2020, <https://sites.google.com/site/pennagal/diggingupbones>

<sup>121</sup> Find A Grave. "Laura Victoria Wilmer." Accessed April 2, 2020. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/108813360/laura-victoria-wilmer>

<sup>122</sup> "Virginia, Death Certificates, 1912-1987," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVR4-F917> : 16 August 2019), Victoria Wilmer in entry for Andrew Telton Wilmer, 27 May 1936; from "Virginia, Marriage Records, 1700-1850," database and images, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 2012); citing Covington, Alleghany, Virginia, United States, entry #, Virginia Department of Health, Richmond.

<sup>123</sup> "United States Census, 1940," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VRY3-6VR> : 27 February 2020), Laura V Wilmer in household of Henry B Wilmer, Covington, Covington Magisterial District, Alleghany, Virginia, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 3-6, sheet 1B, line 58, family 17, 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 4243.

<sup>124</sup> "Virginia, Death Certificates, 1912-1987," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVR8-RJMW> : 16 August 2019), Laura Victoria Wilmer, 07 Sep 1953; from "Virginia, Marriage Records, 1700-1850," database and images, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : 2012); citing Covington, Alleghany, Virginia, United States, entry #, Virginia Department of Health, Richmond.

Tilton as his grandson.<sup>125</sup> When Josianna married **Charles Lewis Wilmer (1859-1900)** in 1882 Tilton moved in with them and his last name was changed from Wilmore to Wilmer. His mother and stepfather had eight children together. One of Tilton's half-brothers was **Oscar M. Wilmer (1897-1967)**. Oscar served in World War I as a Corporal in 3 Casual Company.<sup>126</sup>

Tilton married **Laura Victoria Wilmore (1875-1953)** on October 23, 1895 in Amherst, Virginia, when he was nineteen years old.<sup>127</sup> They had twelve children together and Tilton worked as a farmer to support his family.<sup>128</sup>

Tilton and Laura's youngest son was **William Leslie Wilmer (1916-1944)**. William married **Virginia Elizabeth Lockhart (1919-1937)** on March 26, 1937 in Covington, Virginia.<sup>129</sup> According to William's niece **Joyce Blackwell (1932- )**, soon after getting married his wife Virginia decided to have all of her teeth pulled at one time, against the doctors wishes, and died of an infection. According to her death certificate she passed away at the age of nineteen on July 12, 1937, due to a blood clot.<sup>130</sup> William married again on December 21, 1940 to **Pauline Lawson (1915-unknown)**.<sup>131</sup> William enlisted in the army (though the year of enlistment is not known) as World War II raged in Europe. William was a sergeant in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division's 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Company M and was killed in action on December 26, 1944.<sup>132</sup> He is buried in France in the Epinal American Cemetery. Tilton did not live long

---

<sup>125</sup> "United States Census, 1880," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MCPN-7Q8>; 15 July 2017), Josianna Wilmore in household of Robert Wilmore, Pedlar, Amherst, Virginia, United States; citing enumeration district ED 20, sheet 263D, NARA microfilm publication T9 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.), FHL microfilm 1,255,353.

<sup>126</sup> Find A Grave. "Oscar M. "Bill" Wilmer." Accessed April 15, 2020. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/113785768>

<sup>127</sup> "Virginia Marriages, 1785-1940", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XRD7-LB4>; 29 January 2020), Victoria Wilmer in entry for Andrew T. Wilmer, 1895.

<sup>128</sup> "United States Census, 1900," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MMF8-5ZP>; accessed 13 February 2020), Tildon Wilmore, Pedlar District (north part), Amherst, Virginia, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 12, sheet 19B, family 356, NARA microfilm publication T623 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1972.); FHL microfilm 1,241,699.

<sup>129</sup> "Virginia, Marriage Certificates, 1936-1988," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVB1-8KWL>; 10 January 2019), William Leslie Wilmer and Virginia Elizabeth Lockhart, 26 Mar 1937; from "Virginia, Marriage Records, 1700-1850," database and images, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com>; 2012); citing Covington, , Virginia, United States, certificate 4678, Virginia Department of Health, Richmond.

<sup>130</sup> "Virginia, Death Certificates, 1912-1987," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVR4-2SZN>; 16 August 2019), W Leslie Wilmer in entry for Virginia Elizabeth Wilmer, 12 Jul 1937; from "Virginia, Marriage Records, 1700-1850," database and images, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com>; 2012); citing Covington, Alleghany, Virginia, United States, entry #, Virginia Department of Health, Richmond.

<sup>131</sup> "Virginia, Marriage Certificates, 1936-1988," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVB1-YP5M>; 10 January 2019), William Leslie Wilmer and Pauline Lawson, 21 Dec 1940; from "Virginia, Marriage Records, 1700-1850," database and images, *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com>; 2012); citing Covington, , Virginia, United States, certificate 48661, Virginia Department of Health, Richmond.

<sup>132</sup> Find A Grave. "Sgt. William Leslie Wilmer." Accessed February 20, 2020. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56376381/william-leslie-wilmer>

enough to see his son sent to war as he passed away at the age of fifty-nine on May 27, 1936.<sup>133</sup>

**Olive Eugenia Hill (1882-1975)** was born to **Nancy Ann Sweeney (1863-1946)** and **Peter E. Hill (1857-1943)** in Floyd, Virginia. Olive lived with her parents, one older brother and seven younger siblings in Roanoke.<sup>134</sup> The census also states that Olive was able to read and write, however her father and two younger brothers **Posey Hill (1884-1902)** and **Leonard Hill (1886- )**<sup>135</sup> were illiterate. Both boys also were working at just fifteen and fourteen years of age as day laborers. Olive married **John W. Blackwell (1862-1924)** in the early 1900s. John was twenty years older than her and already had children from his previous marriages. Olive gave birth to their first child together in 1903, his name was **John Wesley Blackwell (1903-1958)**, followed by **Ocie Blackwell (1908-2007)**, **Wallace Clarence Blackwell (1910-1989)**, **Edward Lee Blackwell (1913-2002)**, and **Gladys Virginia Blackwell (1917-2015)**.<sup>136</sup> According to the 1910 census, Olive also had one child that had passed away.<sup>137</sup> Her husband John passed away in 1924, and she married Robert Dalton Wimmer. He later passed away in 1938, and Olive died on May 28, 1975 in Salem, Virginia.<sup>138</sup>

**John W. Blackwell (1862-1924)** was the son of **Mary Jane Overstreet (1835-1900)** and **William Leonard Blackwell (1838-1862)**. His parents were married on October 10, 1861 in Floyd, Virginia.<sup>139</sup> He was born on May 8, 1862, just ten days after his father William's death. William was a private in the 63<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Infantry, Company A in the Confederate States Army. He died of typhoid fever in Richmond, Virginia, as did his younger brother **Thomas T.**

---

<sup>133</sup> "Virginia, Death Certificates, Andrew Tilton Wilmer."

<sup>134</sup> "United States Census, 1900," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MMJ9-ZRS> : accessed 24 February 2020), Olive E Hill in household of Peter Hill, Salem District, Roanoke, Virginia, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 75, sheet 5B, family 83, NARA microfilm publication T623 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1972.); FHL microfilm 1,241,725.

<sup>135</sup> Find A Grave. "Posey T. Hill." Accessed February 24, 2020. [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/147886254/posey-t\\_hill#source](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/147886254/posey-t_hill#source)

<sup>136</sup> "United States Census, 1920," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MJV9-DTL> : accessed 26 April 2020), Olive E Blackwell in household of John W Blackwell, Salem, Roanoke, Virginia, United States; citing ED 124, sheet 21A, line 3, family 361, NARA microfilm publication T625 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1992), roll 1908; FHL microfilm 1,821,908.

<sup>137</sup> "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MPPZ-52X> : accessed 26 April 2020), Ollie Blackwell in household of John W Blackwell, Salem, Roanoke, Virginia, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 133, sheet 15B, family 260, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 1646; FHL microfilm 1,375,659.

<sup>138</sup> Olive Hill Wimmer Death Certificate, from author's personal collection.

<sup>139</sup> "Virginia Marriages, 1785-1940", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X5Y8-BBG> : 29 January 2020), William L. Blackwell, 1861.

**Blackwell (1841-1862).**<sup>140</sup> Thomas was a private in the 54<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry, Company B in the Confederate States Army and died on July 8, 1862. Their brother **Abraham Gish Blackwell (1843-1928)** was also in the 54<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry, though he survived the war.

After his father's death, his mother remarried in 1869 to **Gideon Lawrence (1843-1902)**. On December 14, 1882 John married his first wife Peradine Cole in Floyd, Virginia.<sup>141</sup> By 1884, Peradine was dead as John got married to his second wife Nancy E. Wright.<sup>142</sup> John was again widowed and married third wife Mollie Thomas on July 12, 1891.<sup>143</sup> Mollie passed away before 1903, as the 1910 census shows John married to his fourth and final wife, **Olive Eugenia Hill (1882-1975)** and states that they have been married for seven years.<sup>144</sup> John had six children with Olive, though only five lived to adulthood. He passed away in 1924.

**Viola May Ater (1873-1943)** was born to **Martha Jane Dryer (1841-1915)** and **Jacob Ater Jr. (1822-1876)** in Ross, Ohio. It is written in the he Ater family bible that Viola's parents were married on November 11, 1857.<sup>145</sup> Viola's father died in 1876, leaving Martha head of the house. The 1880 census shows Martha widowed and living with her children Aaron, Edmund, Lizzie, Elmer, and Viola along with a boarder and a nephew.<sup>146</sup> Viola married **Charles C. Morris (1867-1927)** on December 25, 1889. On November 22, 1890 the couple welcomed their first child **Thomas Morris (1890-1919)**.<sup>147</sup> They went on to have six more children **Mary Alice Morris (1892-1959)**, **Bertha Morris (1895-1910)**, **Gladys Morris (1897-1974)**, **Helen Gertrude Morris (1901-1910)**, **Margaret Morris (1904-1962)**, and **William Morris (1909-unknown)**. Unfortunately, two of Viola's daughters died of typhoid in 1910. Her eldest son

---

<sup>140</sup> Find A Grave. "William Leonard Blackwell." Accessed February 12, 2020.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/24243872/william-leonard-blackwell>

<sup>141</sup> "Virginia Marriages, 1785-1940", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X5Y6-688> : 29 January 2020), John W. Blackwell, 1882.

<sup>142</sup> "Virginia Marriages, 1785-1940", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X5Y6-NPP> : 29 January 2020), John W. Blackwell, 1884.

<sup>143</sup> Virginia Marriages, 1785-1940", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X5Y6-1P2> : 29 January 2020), John W. Blackwell, 1891.

<sup>144</sup> "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MPPZ-526> : accessed 12 February 2020), John W Blackwell, Salem, Roanoke, Virginia, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 133, sheet 15B, family 260, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 1646; FHL microfilm 1,375,659.

<sup>145</sup> Ater Family Bible, from author's personal collection.

<sup>146</sup> "United States Census, 1880," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M8SK-6JH> : 16 July 2017), Viola Ater in household of Martha J Ater, Deerfield, Ross, Ohio, United States; citing enumeration district ED 145, sheet 205B, NARA microfilm publication T9 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.), FHL microfilm 1,255,062.

<sup>147</sup> "Ohio Births and Christenings, 1821-1962", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XX7F-THL> : 19 January 2020), Thos. E. Morris, 1890.

Thomas had tuberculosis for two years before passing away. According to his obituary he passed away at home on August 26, 1919 at 5:50 PM. He worked with his father Charles in the family merchantable business until he was stricken with the disease. His parents sent him to Asheville, North Carolina, in the winters of 1917-1918 and 1918-1919, which they had hoped would help his deteriorating health.<sup>148</sup> Thomas never recovered and passed away at the age of twenty-eight.

Viola's husband Charles died in 1927 and she later moved in with her daughter Mary and her large family, and her other daughter Gladys also moved in. Mary had allowed them to move in because they were going to use some of Viola's money to build her an addition onto the house so that she could live there comfortably. Instead Gladys took all her mother's money and built a home for the two of them to move into. Mary was so irate at her sister for using her mother's money to build herself a nice, new house that the two did not speak after that.<sup>149</sup> The 1940 census shows Viola and Gladys near Mary's home on Walsh Avenue.<sup>150</sup> Viola passed away on April 22, 1943 at the age of seventy-two in Columbus, Ohio.<sup>151</sup>

**Charles C. Morris (1867-1927)** was the son of **Elizabeth Brockman (1844-unknown)** and **Samuel Morris (1844-1915)**. His father Samuel had been in Company M of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ohio Calvary during the Civil War.<sup>152</sup> Samuel enlisted on February 20, 1864 and signed on for three years. However, the war ended in 1865 so Samuel mustered out with the company on September 13, 1865.<sup>153</sup> Charles' parents were married two years after the war ended on September 23, 1867 in Ross, Ohio<sup>154</sup> and he was the first child born to the couple. The 1880 census lists his father Samuel as a rag buyer and his mother Elizabeth was washing and ironing, though it was also noted that Elizabeth was sick with consumption.<sup>155</sup> Charles married **Viola May Ater (1873-1943)** in 1889. His mother Elizabeth died sometime before 1893, as his father Samuel married

---

<sup>148</sup> "Thomas Morris." Newspaper clipping, from the author's personal collection.

<sup>149</sup> Charles Michael Taylor, interview.

<sup>150</sup> "United States Census, 1940," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KW8H-ZC9> : 29 July 2019), Mary A Taylor in household of Harry C Taylor, Ward 10, Columbus City, Montgomery Township, Franklin, Ohio, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 93-177, sheet 7A, line 35, family 152, Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940, NARA digital.

<sup>151</sup> "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X84W-RQ2> : 15 August 2019), Viola May Morris, 22 Apr 1943; citing Columbus, Fanklin, Ohio, reference fn 23651; FHL microfilm 2,024,130.

<sup>152</sup> Find A Grave. "Martha Jane Dryer Morris." Accessed February 25, 2020.  
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/65266409/martha-jane-morris>

<sup>153</sup> Charles Michael Taylor, interview.

<sup>154</sup> Morris marriage license, from author's personal collection.

<sup>155</sup> 1880 Census, from author's personal collection.

his daughter-in-law Viola's widowed mother **Martha Jane Dryer (1841-1915)** that year.<sup>156</sup> Charles owned a merchantable store that his son Thomas also worked at for several years. Charles passed away in 1927.

**Elizabeth Betty Pratt (1852-1924)** was born to **Rhoda Campbell (1825-1895)** and **Hiram Gilbert Pratt (1828-1919)** in Perry, Kentucky, on March 12, 1852.<sup>157</sup> When Elizabeth was ten years old, her father Hiram enlisted in the Confederate States Army near Whitesburg, Kentucky, on August 29, 1862. He was Second Lieutenant in Company B of the 13<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Calvary.<sup>158</sup> Elizabeth's father was in the same company as her future husband **James Nicholas Brasher (1835-1920)**.

**James Nicholas Brashear (1835-1920)** was born on August 10, 1835 in Viper, Kentucky, to **Elizabeth Young (1808-1902)** and **James Nicholas Brashear (1800-1854)**. He enlisted to serve the Confederate States Army on September 12, 1862 and served until the end of the war in 1865 as a private in Company B of the 13<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Calvary.<sup>159</sup> James' two brothers **Sampson Brashear (1838-1898)** and **William E. Brashear (1840-1907)** also served in the same company. Sampson was wounded and captured by the Union Army at the Battle of Mount Sterling on June 9, 1864.

Including James and his two brothers, there were thirteen Brashear's that fought for the Confederate States Army in the 13<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Calvary. One of them was James' cousin, **Harvey Gray Brashear (1835-1918)**. Harvey wrote a letter home dated July 1, 1864, detailing the events surrounding Mount Sterling and gave an update on the family members in his unit. In this letter he writes, "We lost some of our boys at Mount Sterling some was killed some was captured. Sampson Brashear was captured he was left on the Battlefield and we have not heard from him since...James Brashear and little William Brashear is all rite come out safe and sound. I had one ball to pass threw my pants but never touched the hide. We fought on Saturday about 6

---

<sup>156</sup> Find A Grave. "Martha Jane Dryer Morris."

<sup>157</sup> "Kentucky Births and Christenings, 1839-1960", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FWJH-VYL>) : 14 January 2020), Elizabeth Pratt, 1852.

<sup>158</sup> Waukesha Lowe Sammons, "American Civil War (1861-1865) Names D-Z," Perry County Kentucky Military Legacy, February 12, 2020, <http://www.perrycountkentuckymilitarylegacy.com/9--american-civil-war--d---z.html>

<sup>159</sup> Find A Grave. "James N. Brashear, Jr." Accessed February 17, 2020. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/87862727/james-n-brashear>

hours all the time in close distant. We captured 1,273 yankees in the 6 hours fite and the same nite following captured 1,000 more one train of cars and all of its storage...”<sup>160</sup>

Like Harvey mentioned Sampson was captured. He was then taken to a Union Army Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky, and treated for his wounds. On June 15, he was well enough to be sent to Rock Island Prison Barracks, a Union prison, in Illinois. The builder of the prison admitted that it was "put up in the roughest and cheapest manner, mere shanties, with no fine work about them."<sup>161</sup> In the southwest corner of the prison there was a small marsh which was a breeding ground for disease. Out of the “12,400 men confined during Rock Island's 20-month operation, 1,964 prisoners and 171 guards died from disease.”<sup>162</sup> Northern papers dismissed any ill treatment of prisoners and *The Chicago Daily Tribune* article from January 8, 1864 wrote “the prisoners are well cared for, having the same rations as our own soldiers, and careful attention when sick...some of them are now actually suffering from surfeit, the result of eating so much more meat than that to which they have been accustomed for months pervious.”<sup>163</sup> Sampson was transferred from the prison on March 6, 1865 and was exchanged in Virginia in a prisoner swap.<sup>164</sup> When Sampson returned home he was described as a “mere skeleton.”<sup>165</sup>

In 1867 James married **Elizabeth Pratt (1852-1924)** in Fusonia, Kentucky. The couple had thirteen children that survived to adulthood, **Rhonda Brashear (1870-1943)**, **Hiram Pratt Brashear (1873-1976)**, **Elzira Brashear (1875-1961)**, **Martha Brashear (1876-1929)**, **Sampson B. Brashear (1878-1919)**, **Ezekiel Brashear (1879-1970)**, **Robert E. Brashear (1882-1970)**, **Preston T. Brashear (1886-1977)**, **Marion Hilton Brashear (1888-1961)**, **Lucinda B. Brashear (1890-1971)**, **Anna Brashear (1893-1960)** and **Elias Brashear (1895-1971)**.<sup>166</sup> As James got older he moved in with his son Preston, as the 1920 census lists both James and Elizabeth in Preston’s home in Perry, Kentucky.<sup>167</sup> James died on April 10, 1920 at

---

<sup>160</sup> Waukesha Lowe Sammons, “American Civil War (1861-1865) Names A-B,” Perry County Kentucky Military Legacy, February 12, 2020, <http://www.perrycountykentuckymilitarylegacy.com/7--american-civil-war--a---b.html>

<sup>161</sup> “Rock Island Prisoner of War Camp.” The American Civil War. Accessed February 21, 2020. <https://www.mycivilwar.com/pow/il-rock-island.html>

<sup>162</sup> “Rock Island Prisoner of War Camp.”

<sup>163</sup> “The Rebel Prisoners on Rock Island.” *Chicago Daily Tribune*, January 8, 1964. Library of Congress: Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Accessed February 18, 2020. <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84031490/1864-01-08/ed-1/seq-1/>

<sup>164</sup> Sammons, “American Civil War (1861-1865) Names A-B.”

<sup>165</sup> Sammons, “American Civil War (1861-1865) Names A-B.”

<sup>166</sup> Find A Grave. “Elizabeth Pratt Brashear.” Accessed March 20, 2020. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/87862390/elizabeth-brashear>

<sup>167</sup> “United States Census, 1920,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MHP4-NDR> : accessed 17 February 2020), James N Brashear in household of Preston F Brashear, Big Branch, Perry, Kentucky, United States; citing ED 101,

the age of eighty-four.<sup>168</sup>

**Mary Ann Bennet (1838-1916)** was the daughter of **Rebecca Hopkins (1817-1901)** and **Samuel Bennet (1814-1879)**. Mary was the second child born to the couple.<sup>169</sup> She married **Jonathan Taylor (1832-1911)** on September 25, 1856 in Pickaway Co., Ohio.<sup>170</sup> Their children were **Olivia Taylor (1858-1939)**,<sup>171</sup> **Rebecca Jane Taylor (1860-1932)**,<sup>172</sup> **Mary Taylor (1864-unknown)**,<sup>173</sup> **William C. Taylor (1866-unknown)**,<sup>174</sup> **Ida Taylor (1867-1930)**,<sup>175</sup> **Laura Taylor (1868-1953)**,<sup>176</sup> **Caleb “Callie” Taylor (1871-1940)**,<sup>177</sup> **Ellis Taylor (1873-unknown)**,<sup>178</sup> **Grant Raymond Taylor (1876-1945)**,<sup>179</sup> **Thomas Taylor (1879-1961)**, and **Harry Clyde Taylor (1881-1961)**. Mary’s husband Jonathan died in 1911 and she died five years later, on June 22, 1916 in Circleville, Ohio.<sup>180</sup>

**Jonathan Taylor (1832-1911)** was the son of **Mary Phillips (1800-1869)** and **Jonathan Taylor (1796-1882)**. Jonathan was the fourth child born to the couple in Pennsylvania. The Taylor family moved to Pickaway, Ohio, by the year 1842 as Jonathan’s younger brother

---

sheet 22A, line 30, family 382, NARA microfilm publication T625 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1992), roll 595; FHL microfilm 1,820,595.

<sup>168</sup> "Kentucky Death Records, 1911-1965," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NSRS-68Q>; 2 January 2019), James N. Brashear, 10 Apr 1920; citing Death, Perry, Kentucky, United States, certificate , Office of Vital Statistics, Frankfort; FHL microfilm 1,943,278.

<sup>169</sup> Find A Grave. "Samuel J. Bennett." Accessed April 26, 2020. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/27240020/samuel-j-bennett>

<sup>170</sup> "Ohio Marriages, 1800-1958", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XDV3-XP1> : 15 February 2020), Mary Ann Bennett in entry for Jonathan Taylor, 1856.

<sup>171</sup> "Ohio, County Death Records, 1840-2001," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:F6C4-RF4> : 10 March 2018), Jonathan Taylor in entry for Olivia Porter, 30 Oct 1939; citing Death, Atlanta, Perry Township, Pickaway, Ohio, United States, source ID , County courthouses, Ohio; FHL microfilm 1,927,842.

<sup>172</sup> Find A Grave. "Rebecca Jane Taylor Haggard." Accessed April 26, 2020.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/63070748/rebecca-jane-haggard>

<sup>173</sup> "United States Census, 1880," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M8SD-K4W> : 26 August 2017), Jont Taylor, Monroe, Pickaway, Ohio, United States; citing enumeration district ED 215, sheet 336D, NARA microfilm publication T9 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.), FHL microfilm 1,255,057.

<sup>174</sup> United States Census, 1880.

<sup>175</sup> Find A Grave. "Ida McCafferty." Accessed April 26, 2020. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/45779344>

<sup>176</sup> "Ohio, County Death Records, 1840-2001," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:F6CP-WZR> : 10 March 2018), Jonathan Taylor in entry for Laura Swank, 22 Sep 1953; citing Death, Williamsport, Deer Creek Township, Pickaway, Ohio, United States, source ID , County courthouses, Ohio; FHL microfilm 1,927,844.

<sup>177</sup> "Ohio, County Death Records, 1840-2001," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:F6CQ-9R7> : 10 March 2018), Jonathan Taylor in entry for Callie Taylor, 21 Aug 1940; citing Death, Genoa, Delaware, Ohio, United States, source ID 8, County courthouses, Ohio; FHL microfilm 1,983,898.

<sup>178</sup> United States Census, 1880.

<sup>179</sup> Find A Grave. "Grant Raymond Taylor." Accessed April 26, 2020. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/45849390/grant-raymond-taylor>

<sup>180</sup> "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X8NK-7S8> : 15 August 2019), Mary Ann Taylor, 22 Jun 1916; citing Circleville, Pickaway Co., Ohio, reference fn 39523; FHL microfilm 1,983,749.



**Richard M. Taylor (1842-1874)** was listed as the first child born in Pickaway Co., Ohio.<sup>181</sup> Jonathan married **Mary Ann Bennet (1832-1911)** in Ohio in 1856, and they had eleven children together. Jonathan worked as a farmer to support his family. On June 17, 1911 he was putting hay into the haymow when he fell and hit his back on a stall. He died later that evening from the accident.<sup>182</sup> He was seventy-eight years old.

---

<sup>181</sup> "United States Census, 1850," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MXQY-GXF> : 28 February 2020), Jonathan Taylor in household of Jonathan Taylor, Monroe, Pickaway, Ohio, United States.

<sup>182</sup> Jonathan Taylor's Obituary, author's personal collection.