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Family History of Amber Ball

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The Family History of

Amber R. Ball

25 February 2020

Amber Renee Ball 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: waylonswife9269@gmail.com

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List of Direct Line Family Members

Generation One

- A1. Amber Renee Fullerton (1985-)
- A2. Waylon Michael Ball (1979-)

Generation Two

- A1a. Mildred Yvonne Glover (1962-)
- A1b. Bruce Allen Fullerton (1956-2008)

Generation Three

- A1a1. Mildred Yvonne Triplet (1940-)
- A1a2. Joe Fredrick Glover (1937-1990)
- A1b1. Ferne Arlene Hutzell (1932-1998)
- A1b2. James Harry Fullerton (1931-2016)

GENERATION ONE

Amber Renee Fullerton (1985-) was born in at Gravette Memorial Hospital in Gravette, Arkansas, 10 August 1985 to **Bruce Allen Fullerton (1956-2008)** and **Mildred Yvonne Glover (1962-)**. She was the first child to be born to Bruce and Mildred and arrived almost two weeks after her initial due date¹.

Bruce and Mildred continued to live in Northwest Arkansas as both were employed at the Tyson's Chicken plant. Almost two years later, Mildred gave birth to a daughter **Trisha Dawn Fullerton (1987-)**. Having enjoyed being an only child up until this point, shortly after her parents brought home her baby sister Amber one day pushed her off of the couch when her mother went into the other room. One day, almost a year after her sister was born, Amber's mother was rushed to the hospital due to an extreme loss of blood and required an emergency hysterectomy².

Amber's parents continued to work at the chicken plant for a short time after that until her father had a fight with his little sister. This disagreement caused Amber's parents to decide to pack up and move away. The Fullerton family moved from Gravette, Arkansas to Emporia, Kansas. Bruce at that time had multiple jobs; one working at a meat packing plant and another driving a taxi at night. Mildred ended up working part time as a housekeeper at a local hotel. Amber attended pre-school and kindergarten in Emporia, Kansas and had made friends with a couple of her classmates. Amber's favorite memory of this time was the Christmas program that she participated in and seeing Santa after the program; ever since Christmas has been her favorite holiday.

From Emporia, Kansas, the Fullerton family moved to Wichita, Kansas at the request of Bruce's estranged father in hopes of renewing their relationship. They lived in an apartment complex near the McConnell Air Force Base. Amber and her sister briefly got to know their paternal grandfather and his wife before things went "south". Bruce and his father got into an argument one day so bad that it prompt-

¹ Personal knowledge of the author, Amber R. Ball

² Mildred Fullerton, Personal interview with author, March 16, 2020.

ed Bruce to pack up his family yet again and move. This time they took what they could fit in their car and many of the family's possessions were left behind.

Unsure what drew Bruce to move his family to Nebraska, but the Fullerton family ended up moving to North Platte which was the western terminus of the Union Pacific Railway from the summer of 1867 until the next section to Laramie, Wyoming was opened the following summer. It is also the home to Buffalo Bill Cody. Buffalo Bill Ranch State Historic Park is a living history park which includes Cody's actual house (known as Scout's Rest Ranch) and is located two miles west of North Platte³. The Fullerton family lived in a couple of different places in North Platte and Hershey (a small community right outside of North Platte). The family made several day trips to Scout's Rest Ranch while they were living in Nebraska.

When they first moved to North Platte, Amber's parents met a local business man that owned a trailer park in town and he offered her parent's a job managing this trailer park. While working here her father injured his back and required back surgery. After the surgery, he never fully recovered but continued to manage this property to provide for his family. Her parents continued to manage this trailer park for a little over a year until the owner ended up going to jail and lost ownership of the property. Needing to find a new place to live, the Fullerton family moved just outside of North Platte to Hershey, Nebraska and stayed in that location less than six months. Bruce and Mildred were able to find a duplex within North Platte on D Street. Amber remembers her neighbors fondly and recalls time spent playing "Power Rangers" with her neighborhood friends. While Amber and her sister did not realize at the time how their family struggled financially, thinking back she remembers how one year her and her sister were selected to participate in "Santa Cop" and were visited by a very nice officer who brought them Christmas presents.

In figure 6.4 "Adjusted Family-of-Four Income Medians, by Education", Fischer and Hout show how income differences by education grew from 1950-2000. Significant changes in incomes related to

³ Wikipedia. "North Platte, Nebraska." Accessed February 5, 2020.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Platte%2C_Nebraska#History

education have drastically changed since 1980 as college graduates did increasingly well and those with less than a BA degree fell behind. From 1949-1969, college graduates' incomes remained at a constant ratio of others' incomes. In 1969 college graduates reported \$1.30 of adjusted family-of-four income for each dollar reported by those with some college, about \$1.50 per dollar of high school graduates, and about \$2.05 per dollar of high school dropouts. By the end of the century the ratios became \$1.50, \$1.80, and \$3.20; the college graduates had moved the furthest ahead, but the gaps between all the educational groups widened.⁴

Amber and her sister were born into a family of mediocre means. Amber's mother had graduated high school and obtained her CNA license, later going on to obtain her medication technician license. Her father had dropped out of high school due to issues with his family and did his best to provide for his family until he became permanently disabled in the 90's after a significant back injury while managing the trailer park that he was employed at in North Platte, Nebraska. The lack of education obtained by her parents at times caused a paycheck to paycheck living and her family was also receiving social security and state assistance once her father became disabled.

In 1993, the Fullerton family took a family vacation to Somerset, Pennsylvania. Amber and her sister met their paternal grandmother and her husband (who they would later come to call Pappy) for the first time. These were the only grandparents that these two girls ever really got to know. Somerset is a borough or township with an overall population 6,277 according to the 2010 census. On the outskirts of Somerset in a township known as Shanksville, United Airlines Flight 93 crashed in a field on September 11, 2001 when the passengers overtook the terrorists that had hijacked the flight⁵. The trips that the family took were some of the most special times that they shared together.

After Amber's father got reacquainted with his mother he decided that he wanted his family to once again be close to family. The Fullerton family moved again, this time to Southwest Missouri so that

⁴ Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 145-146.

⁵ Wikipedia. "Somerset, Pennsylvania." Accessed March 23, 2020.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Somerset%2C_Pennsylvania

they could be close to Bruce's younger sister and her family. The family briefly lived in Wheaton, Missouri; then moved to a house in the country of Rocky Comfort, Missouri. Finally, in February of 1997, the Fullerton family moved to Neosho, Missouri where they finally planted their roots.

Neosho, Missouri is the location of Fort Crowder. Fort Crowder was established in the 1941 at the height of World War II and was later deactivated in 1951. In the early 1950's it was re-opened in hopes of becoming a permanent Military Police School but was again deactivated in 1956. Approximately 2,000 acres of the post was turned over to the Air Force and a rocket building facility named Rocketdyne was built. They manufactured rockets that were used by NASA until its contract ended in 1968. There is also a local legend that Confederate gold is buried somewhere within the town; some believe that the cave at Big Spring Park hold the remains of Confederate soldiers along with the gold⁶.

While attending Neosho High School, Amber decided that she wanted to dedicate her life to healthcare services and started the Certified Nurses Aide course through Crowder College Technical School her Junior year. By the time that Amber had graduated high school in 2003 she already had her CNA license and was working full-time as an aide on the Alzheimer's unit at a local nursing home. Amber started college at Crowder in the fall of 2003 to start working towards her goal of becoming a nurse. She obtained her Emergency Medical Technician license in early 2005 and that summer began working at Freeman West in the Emergency Department. Due to financial setbacks, Amber was not able to finish college at that time (no one took the time to explain how to receive financial assistance to her).

Amber continued to work at Freeman full-time as she had moved out of her parents home shortly before her twentieth birthday. She moved in with a close friend to help her out with her son as she was a single mother. Before she was twenty-one Amber was able to purchase her first home in Joplin, Missouri. She continued to live with her friend and her son; they even let her friends sister move in for a time to help her through a rough patch.

One night in early 2007, while at a friends house for their weekly game night, Amber met a man named **Waylon Michael Ball (1979-)**. They quickly became friends, listening to each others "prob-

⁶ Wikipedia. "Neosho, Missouri." Accessed March 23, 2020. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neosho,_Missouri

lems” and helping one another out when needed. That friendship quickly began to turn into something more and they started dating in February 2008. Waylon asked for Amber’s hand in marriage on her birthday in 2008, and while it was a little backwards, on the twenty-fifth wedding anniversary of her parents, a few days later, he asked her father for his permission for her hand in marriage. Amber wanted her father to be able to be a part of this wonderful time in her life but he had been placed on hospice care in April of that same year and passed away two weeks after giving Waylon his permission.

Amber and Waylon were married on 26 September 2009 in Jane, Missouri surrounded by family and friends. When Amber gained a husband that day she also became a mother to a wonderful seven year old son (Waylon was and remains the primary custodian of his son). Amber learned that while rewarding, being a “bonus” mom is one of the hardest jobs she would ever have.

Amber and Waylon would face a few challenges early on in their marriage but ultimately end up stronger as a couple for it. In May 2011, Amber and Waylon lost their home in the tornado that ripped through Joplin that fateful afternoon. Grateful that they were not home when the tornado demolished their home; they were able to recover a truckload of items and mementos, along with their two dogs who survived the storm. With the support of family and friends they were able to get back on their feet and purchase what may be their forever home in September 2011.

The following spring Amber and Waylon sat down and had a discussion and decided that Amber had put nursing school off for far too long. One afternoon in April 2012, Amber went to Crowder College with the intent of finding out what prerequisites she still lacked and what was need to apply for nursing school. She left the campus that afternoon, called her husband and informed him that not only did she have a nursing school application in hand but that she was enrolled for courses that summer and fall. Amber submitted her application to nursing school and was accepted, she began the program in January 2013. She managed a full-time work load, full-time credit hours, and being a mom to an active boy who was involved in baseball and orchestra. She was starting to fulfill her dreams.

According to Fischer, Amber was fulfilling the *Mentality* theme of life⁷. She was using the tools and resources at her command to better her life, not only for herself but for her family. For far too long she had worried about the life that she could help provide this child who's biological mother was not very active in his life, and now she was obtaining the means to provide a life for him that her parents were not able to provide for her. She now had a way to ease her mental fears and gain a bit of happiness for herself and knew that her father would be proud of her hard work and accomplishments.

Amber graduated from Crowder College with her Associate's degree in Nursing in December 2014. She subsequently began working as Graduate Nurse on the Cardiology Unit that same month. Amber sat for NCLEX (nursing boards) at the end of January 2015 and passed. She continued to work on the Cardiology Unit as a Registered Nurse. She was offered the position of Charge Nurse in May 2018 and accepted the position.

Amber decided that she wanted more out of her nursing career than what she had and applied for the RN-BSN online program through Pittsburg State University in the fall of 2018 and was accepted. She began taking courses to further her education in January 2019 and is on track to graduate with her Bachelor's of Science in Nursing summer 2020. Amber was recently inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nurses. Amber decided and discussed with her husband that she wasn't yet where she wanted to be with her career. She has also applied for the Doctorate of Nursing Program at Pittsburg State University and is currently on the alternate list with hopes of receiving a spot in the program to start summer 2020.

⁷ Claude S. Fischer, "The Stories We Tell," in *Made in America: a Social History of American Culture and Character* (University of Chicago Press, 2011), pp. 9.

GENERATION TWO

A1a. Mildred Yvonne Glover (1962-)

A1b. Bruce Allen Fullerton (1956-2008)

Mildred Yvonne Glover was born on 12 December 1962 in Liberty, Texas, to **Mildred Yvonne Triplet (1940-)** and **Joe Fredrick Glover (1937-1990)**. She was the fifth of six children born to her parents. She has four sisters; **Debra Glover (1957-)**, **JoAnn Glover (1959-)**, **Palmer Jane (Pam) Glover (1960-)**, and **Sheila Glover (1965-)**. Out of six children she had one brother, **David Glover (1961-)**⁸.

Mildred was raised in southeast Texas and graduated high school in Jefferson, Texas. Her parents were divorced in 1978. She joined the military shortly after graduation and obtained the rank of Sharp Shooter. She was honorably discharged not long after as her mother was in a terrible car accident and she was needed to help care for her. After her mother's recovery she moved to northwest Arkansas in late 1983. According to Mildred, she and her siblings had some disagreements and fell "out of touch" for a while; Mildred declined to go into further detail⁹.

In late 1983, Mildred was introduced to **Bruce Allen Fullerton (1956-2008)**, by his sister whom she was friends with from working together. They dated for a time before Bruce decided to propose to Mildred. Mildred and Bruce were married on 14 August 1984 in Bentonville, Arkansas at a non-denominational church. Bruce's sister and husband were there to witness their union.

The newlyweds first lived in northwest Arkansas for a time. Mildred gave birth to Amber in August 1985 and to her second daughter Trisha in May 1987. Amber's parents continued to work at the local chicken plant for a short time after that until her father had a fight with his sister. This disagreement caused Mildred and Bruce to decide to pack up and move away. The Fullerton family moved from Gra-

⁸ Palmer Glover, Personal interview with author, January 22, 2020.

⁹ Mildred Fullerton, Personal interview with author, March 16, 2020.

vette, Arkansas to Emporia, Kansas. Bruce at that time had multiple jobs; one working at a meat packing plant and another driving a taxi at night. Mildred ended up working part time as a housekeeper at a local hotel.

From here the family moved multiple times, finally settling in Neosho, Missouri in 1997. Mildred had previously obtained her CNA license in Nebraska. She was hired at Medicalodges of Neosho prior to the family moving there. While working at the nursing home, Mildred took a night course to obtain certification as a medication administration aide. In her over twenty years of being employed at that facility she also became the head of the Central Supply Department.

Mildred had a hard time after her husband of twenty-five years passed away in 2008. She turned to religion at that time and found comfort there that she had been missing. When her youngest daughter had her first child in 2016, she realized that she was missing out on many of her grandchild's firsts. In 2018, Mildred finally made the decision to sell her house and relocate to Kirbyville, Texas where her youngest daughter lived with her husband and child. She now works at one of the state prisons as a medication technician, after going through the Texas courses to transfer her certification.

Bruce Allen Fullerton (1956-2008) was born 9 May 1956 in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He was born to **Ferne Arlene Hutzell (1932-1998)** and **James Harry Fullerton (1931-2016)**. He was the third of four children; his siblings include, **James Harry Fullerton Jr. (1952-)**, **Arlene Ferne Fullerton (1953-)**, and **Beverly Fullerton (1958-)**.

When he was a young boy his mother and father divorced and he and his siblings moved back to Somerset, Pennsylvania with their mother. He was always a "sickly" child; allergies, asthma, and easily susceptible to illnesses. One rainy spring day early in his childhood, he and his siblings were playing downstairs in the basement and he got his arm caught in the wringer of an old time washing machine. He had to be rushed to the hospital and have a large skin graft placed to his right forearm¹⁰.

¹⁰ Information related to Bruce Fullerton is from the memory of the author and stories that the author remembers being told as he died in 2008.

Bruce continued through school and during the summer of between his Junior year and Senior year of high school his father reached out to him and his little sister. Convinced of their fathers want to reconcile and to be a part of their lives Bruce and Beverly moved to Kansas to live with their father. Bruce ended up dropping out of high school later that year as he and his father got into a fight and he moved out and had to support himself. Bruce didn't feel like that he could move back home with his mother because he left on bad terms and he didn't think that she would forgive him.

In Figure 2.2 “High School Graduation Rates for All and by Gender, Region, and Racial Ancestry, by Year Person Turned Twenty-One”, Fischer and Hout present the historical trends in high school graduation. It shows the increased rate of graduation from the 1900's to the 1970's, based on the efforts of local communities in the late nineteenth century to construct high schools and enforce attendance. It shows how the changing economy spurred attendance; first, by convincing parents that their children's futures depended on getting a good education, and secondly, by eliminating the alternative jobs that uneducated children could take. Graduation rates topped out in the 1970's at 80 to 90 percent for both genders, all four ancestries, and all four regions¹¹.

Unfortunately, despite all the efforts of making sure all children obtain a good education, some children still “fall through the cracks”. Amber's father dropped out of high school due to issues with family and having to be able to support himself so that he did not end up living on the streets. Because of his issues, Bruce made sure that his two daughters did their best while attending school. He wanted them to be able to get the most out of life and knew that that started with graduating from high school.

One year Bruce met a woman named Janet. He and Janet dated for a while and eventually got married. They remained married for a couple of years until one day Bruce came home and found Janet with another man. They got divorced shortly after that.

Then in 1983 his sister introduced him to a woman that she worked with and he and Mildred started to date. They were married 14 August 1984, in a small ceremony with only his sister and her hus-

¹¹ Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 12-13.

band present for witnesses. A year later they had their first child, Amber came into the world, this “precious” little bundle as he would tell her time and again. They gave birth to a second child in May 1987 and Amber had a sister.

Amber’s parents continued to work at the local chicken plant for a short time after that until her father had a fight with his sister. This disagreement caused Mildred and Bruce to decide to pack up and move away. The Fullerton family moved from Gravette, Arkansas to Emporia, Kansas. Bruce at that time had multiple jobs; one working at a meat packing plant and another driving a taxi at night.

After moving from Kansas, the Fullerton family moved to North Platte, Nebraska. Bruce and his wife, for a time managed a trailer park. While working Bruce injured his back and required back surgery. After the surgery, he never fully recovered but continued to manage this property for a short time to provide for his family. Once the owner of the property went to jail, Bruce and his family had to find a new place to live. They moved around the area a couple of times and remained in Nebraska for a couple years. During this time Bruce had a few other back surgeries before becoming completely disabled. He still had the ability to walk, but for short distances, and now required a wheelchair for extensive outings.

After Bruce got reacquainted with his mother in 1993, he decided that he wanted his family to once again be close to family. The Fullerton family moved again, this time to Southwest Missouri so that they could be close to Bruce’s younger sister and her family. The family briefly lived in Wheaton, Missouri; then moved to a house in the country of Rocky Comfort, Missouri. Finally, in February of 1997, the Fullerton family moved to Neosho, Missouri where they finally planted their roots.

Bruce was a smoker for the majority of his life, starting at the age of 14. In 2005, he had his first heart attack and Amber had to perform CPR on her father until emergency personnel arrived. She saved his life that day. From that point Bruce had multiple heart catheterizations and cardiac stent placements. In the summer of 2007, Bruce had to have a triple coronary artery bypass graft surgery. He was told that he need to stop smoking and to change his dietary habits. He did not. In April of 2008 Bruce was placed on hospice care and was told he only had six months at most to live as all three arteries that had been grafted in his heart were 100% occluded. Bruce died in the home on 27 August 2008, 13 days after his

and Mildred's twenty-fifth wedding anniversary¹². He was surrounded by his wife and two daughters when he died.

¹² "Bruce Allen Fullerton (1956-2008) - Find A Grave...," Find a Grave, accessed April 28, 2020, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/29395899/bruce-allen-fullerton>.

GENERATION THREE

Ala1. Mildred Yvonne Triplet (1940-)

Ala2. Joe Fredrick Glover (1937-1990)

Alb1. Ferne Arlene Hutzell (1932-1998)

Alb2. James Harry Fullerton (1931-2016)

Amber's maternal grandmother, **Mildred Yvonne Triplet (1940-)**, was born in Grapevine Texas. Amber's maternal grandfather, **Joe Fredrick Glover (1937-1990)**, was born in Liberty, Texas. They were married 28 August 1956 and divorced 17 February 1978. They had six children; **Debra Glover (1957-)**, **JoAnn Glover (1959-)**, **David Glover (1961-)**, **Palmer Jane (Pam) Glover (1960-)**, **Mildred Yvonne Glover (1962-)**, and **Sheila Glover (1965-)**¹³.

Mildred Yvonne Triplett is still living; she resides in a care center in Beaumont, Texas and has dementia/early Alzheimer's. Amber has only met her maternal grandmother a handful of times; while the majority of her grandchildren call her Memaw, Mildred Triplett had told her daughter when the girls were younger that they could call her Grandmother. Joe Fredrick Glover passed away 30 July 1990¹⁴; he had never met either Amber or her sister as their mother was not on speaking terms with him when he passed away¹⁵.

The Beaumont Enterprise, a local newspaper that reported news in the Beaumont, Texas area and around the world, reported on tensions between Russia, the British, and Japan many times toward the end of 1904¹⁶. This particular news agency also discussed the upcoming campaign of many politicians as

¹³ Palmer Glover, Personal interview with author, January 22, 2020.

¹⁴ "Joe Frederick Glover (1937-1990) - Find a Grave...", accessed April 28, 2020, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/86237214/joe-frederick-glover>.

¹⁵ Personal knowledge of the author, Amber R. Ball.

¹⁶ National Endowment for the Humanities, "The Beaumont Enterprise. [Volume] (Beaumont, Tex.) 1904-Current, August 26, 1904, Image 1," News about Chronicling America RSS (Beaumont Enterprise Pub. Co.), accessed April 29, 2020, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn86071101/1904-08-26/ed-1/seq-1/#date1=1789&sort=date&date2=1963&searchType=advanced&language=&sequence=1&lccn=sn86071101&indx=0&words=&proxdistance=5&rows=20&ortext=&proxtext=&phrasertext=&andtext=&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>.

1904 was a Presidential election year. Many of Amber's ancestors would have had access to this local newspaper. The worry that many must have had with thoughts of war being on the verge and wondering if the United States would become part of the quarrel would have been on many minds during this era. The fact that 1904 was also an election year would have made it more likely that Amber's ancestors would have seen these articles as they would want to be informed on who would potentially be in charge of running the country next.

Ferne Arlene Hutzell (1932-1998) and **James Harry Fullerton (1931-2016)**¹⁷ were Amber's paternal grandparents. They had four children; **James Harry Fullerton Jr. (1952-)**, **Arlene Ferne Fullerton (1953-)**, **Bruce Allen Fullerton (1956-2008)** and **Beverly Fullerton (1958-)**.

Amber's paternal grandmother was the only grandmother that she had ever gotten the chance to know. It was brief family trips to her home in Somerset, Pennsylvania; but Amber cherished those summer visits. Ferne had a stroke in 1996 and never fully recovered use of her right side. The trip that year to visit her grandmother she remembers having to visit her while she was in the hospital, and that is Amber's earliest memory of wanting to go into healthcare to help others. Ferne had a second, bigger stroke on 23 September 1998 and passed away¹⁸.

Amber's paternal grandfather was not a big part of her childhood or early adulthood years. Amber only got to meet him briefly when her family lived in Wichita, Kansas. Almost eight years after her father died, Amber's paternal grandfather moved to southwest Missouri to live with her Aunt Beverly so that she could take care of him as his wife had passed away the year prior. In the few months that he resided with her aunt, Amber got the chance to get to know her grandfather a little. She was able to be there, holding his hand when passed away on 25 February 2016. He was buried close to her father in the same cemetery¹⁹.

¹⁷ FamilySearch, accessed March 27, 2020, <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/KNS6-WDJ>.

¹⁸ "Ferne Arline Hutzell Baer (1932-1998) - Find A...", Find a Grave, accessed April 28, 2020, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/136731657/ferne-arline-baer>.

¹⁹ "James H Fullerton, Sr (1931-2016) - Find A Grave...", Find a Grave, accessed April 28, 2020, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/180379679/james-h-fullerton>.

The *Harrisburg Telegraph* reported on news local to the area in Pennsylvania that Amber's paternal grandparents lived, as well as news around the United States. With the possibility of any of Amber's unknown relatives might have purchased and read this newspaper, they might have learned at the end of 1919 while Prohibition was still enacted, that in New York enough poisoned whisky to kill 20,000 people was seized. They might have also saw an article on the front page that discussed how the conditions of the poor were improving with "booze"²⁰.

In Figure 9.6 "Ideal Number of Children, by Year and Type of Place", Fischer and Hout state that from the 1930's to 1950's American's gave increasingly larger figures in regards to their ideal number of children. From the 1960's to the 1990's they gave progressively smaller numbers. They attributed the rapid fluctuations in preferences to postwar and the 1960's cultural changes. They stated that the first part of the cycle actually corresponded to the baby boom itself: an increase from the average "ideal" 2.8 children in 1936 to a high of 3.6 in 1962. After 1962 these numbers dropped back down to about 2.5 children being the ideal number²¹.

According to these figures, Amber's maternal and paternal grandparents fell outside of the "ideal" category for number of children per family. It did show that the ideal number of children tended to be higher for those in rural communities and both sets of grandparents resided rurally. Her maternal grandparents gave birth to six children, while her paternal grandparents gave birth to four. Amber does know that her paternal grandfather was in the Army as her father was born on a military base; this could explain why her paternal grandparents had a higher number of children.

²⁰ National Endowment for the Humanities, "Harrisburg Telegraph. [Volume] (Harrisburg, Pa.) 1879-1948, December 31, 1919, Image 1," News about Chronicling America RSS (C.H. Bergner), accessed April 29, 2020, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85038411/1919-12-31/ed-1/seq-1/#date1=1900&sort=date&date2=1963&searchType=advanced&language=&sequence=0&lccn=sn85038411&index=6&words=&proxdistance=5&state=Pennsylvania&rows=20&ortext=&proxtext=&phrasertext=&andtext=&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1477>.

²¹ Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 227-228.