

Pittsburg State University

Pittsburg State University Digital Commons

Your Family in History: HIST 550/700

History

2022

The Family History of Cassandra M. Swisher

Cassandra Swisher
cmswish21@gmail.com

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



Part of the [Genealogy Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Swisher, Cassandra, "The Family History of Cassandra M. Swisher" (2022). *Your Family in History: HIST 550/700*. 82.

<https://digitalcommons.pittstate.edu/hist550/82>

This Article 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.

The Family History of
Cassandra M. Swisher
May 2022

Cassandra Michelle Swisher authored this family history as part of the course requirements for HIST 550/700 Your Family in History offered online in Spring 2022 and was submitted to the Pittsburg State University Digital Commons. Please contact the author directly with any questions or comments:
cswisher@gus.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. Cassandra Michelle Swisher (1993-)

Generation Two

A1a. Amy Kirsten Schmitt (1972-)

A1b. Michael David Swisher (1971-)

Generation Three

A1a1. Mary Frances Schmitt (1943-)

A1a2. William Patrick Schmitt (1947-)

A1b1. Freda Louise Neighbours (1940-)

A1b2. Melvin Stanley Swisher (1939-)

Generation Four

A1a1a. Helen Relf (1906-1990)

A1a1b. Patrick Kieran Dunne (1904-1977)

A1a2a. Camilla Dean Underwood (1926-2017)

A1a2b. Clarence Louis Orion Michael Schmitt (1920-1980)

A1b1a. Clara C. Hannsen (1914-1953)

A1b1b. Floyd Edward Neighbours (1914-2009)

A1b2a. Gertrude Izuma Breedlove (1907-2001)

A1b2b. Lester Arthur Swisher (1904-1970)

Generation Five

Ala1a1. Ellen Manton (1876-1957)
Ala1a2. Charles Relf (1870-1916)

Ala1b1. Kate Finn (1855-1835)
Ala1b2. Edward Dunne (1864-1939)

Ala2a1. Ethel Nancy Hardy (1897-1989)
Ala2a2. William Burt Underwood (1895-1958)

Ala2b1. Irene Bell (1885-x)
Ala2b2. Charles Benjamin Schmitt (1882-1938)

Alb1a1. Hermann Fredrick Hanssen (1886-1970)
Alb1a2. Louisa Elza Schulze (1884-1980)

Alb1b1. Iva Mae Faughn (1881-1958)
Alb1b2. James Levin Neighbours (1881-1958)

Alb2a1. Lottie Ellen Fern McGail (1883-1948)
Alb2a2. Fred Breedlove (1879-1941)

Alb2b1. Sarah Elizabeth Keever (1880-1906)
Alb2b2. Thomas Jeremiah Swisher (1869-1942)

GENERATION ONE

Cassandra Michelle Swisher (1993-) was born at the Lutheran Medical Center in Wheatridge, Colorado to **Michael David Swisher (1971-)** and **Amy Kirsten Swisher (1972-)**. She spent the early years of her childhood in the small house in the southern end of Westminster, Colorado with her parents and their dog, Shadow, a German Shepherd and Husky mix, that they got as a puppy when Cassandra was a year old. In 1994, she was baptized into the Catholic faith. When Cassandra was three, the family welcomed her sister, Katelyn Marie (1997-) and they soon realized they needed a bigger house. Cassandra enjoyed having her own room again in the new house, until Brandon Michael (2000-) was born and the girls had to go back to sharing a room for the duration of their childhood.

Cassandra was never a patient child, which sometimes got her into trouble, but she also learned to use it to her advantage. The first time this became apparent was when she was five and wanted to ride her bike without training wheels like the other kids. While it takes many kids a while to work up the courage to face falling, Cassandra jumped right on and within minutes was peddling on her own.

From the moment she started kindergarten, Cassandra loved school and both she and her parents were very involved in school activities. She tried many clubs ranging from math club to Hula club and enjoyed them all. Her dad volunteered to be a crossing guard before school one day a week and when the weather was nice they would walk. Because of a strong need for crossing guards and limited volunteers both of her

parents were soon covering several mornings and afternoons by the time she was in second or third grade. They would also frequently volunteer to help in the classroom or chaperone various field trips throughout her time in elementary school.

Sometimes their involvement annoyed Cassandra, however. Any time they attended a function at the school in the evenings, the family would stay until the event was completely cleaned up. Although it annoyed her then, this is something her whole family still does as often as possible and she has grown to appreciate it. There was also one time when she came home and told them about the very violent movie they were watching in class in fifth grade and they called to complain which meant the class never did get to finish the movie. Overall, the constant support and involvement throughout her school career was comforting.

Before she entered middle school, Cassandra was accepted into the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IBMYP) at Century Middle School in Thornton, Colorado. Being in the program meant she was part of a small group of students that were kept together in the same core classes together for all three years and the classes were also accelerated and required an eighth-grade project that the students outside the program did not participate in. Because she loved sports, Cassandra's project was a video demonstrating different softball batting drills to improve her hitting. Community service was also a big part of the program requirements.

Outside of school hours Cassandra participated in every sport that she could. In seventh and eighth grade she was on the softball,

volleyball, basketball, and track teams. She also played softball, basketball, and volleyball recreationally until she aged out. For a while she also participated in a plyometrics club to improve her jumping for those sports.

Cassandra grew up in Westminster, Colorado, which is in Adams County, but because of the way the cities and counties in the area fit together, many important events in her life actually occurred in other cities like Northglenn, Thornton and Broomfield. Despite its small area of roughly 33.5 square miles, the City and County of Broomfield is the 12th most populous county in Colorado and had a population of 74,112 in 2020.¹ She grew up playing softball, basketball, and volleyball through the city's recreation programs and after she aged out of the programs, Cassandra's first and longest held job was for the recreation department of the City and County of Broomfield. The city and county are the eighth largest employer in the city and county.

Because it is such a small county, Broomfield does not have its own school district, but is instead served by other school districts including one of the Adams county school districts, Adams 12 Five Star Schools. Preferring to attend the high school closer to her house which was much newer, rather than the older high school in the district that had the high school version of the International Baccalaureate program, Cassandra and her parents decided that she would attend Legacy High School in Broomfield, Colorado. Legacy High School is a part of Adams 12 and a very high performing school. In fact, most of

¹ "Broomfield, Colorado," Wikipedia, accessed February 1, 2022, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Broomfield,_Colorado#Demographics.

the 17 schools in Broomfield are considered high performing schools and many families outside of Broomfield try to get their students enrolled in these schools. The success and popularity are most likely because the local economy is focused on technology and attracts families that value education thanks to companies such as Lumen Technologies and Oracle, which are the two largest employers in the city and county.²

Cassandra was forced to make a hard choice when she reached high school because volleyball and softball are both fall sports in Colorado. She ultimately chose softball both because she felt she was slightly better at it and there are more players required at a time so she felt that she had a better chance of making the team. Despite this hope she was told on the first day of tryouts, before the head coach had even seen her play, that she would never make varsity because she did not play competitive softball. They told several girls this and some decided to play competitive so that they could move up, but Cassandra was both stubborn and did not want to give up her summers for one thing and refused. Instead, she played on the C team for two years where she was content because she played constantly, switching between first base and catcher. She was invited to join the JV practices, which were later in the day, after her own practice on the nights when her dad was helping prepare the fields for games the next day. She was never invited to play with them, however, so when it came

² Ibid.

time to sign up for summer workouts before her junior year, Cassandra decided it was time to move on.

Without sports, Cassandra had to find new things to fill her time after school. This time was quickly monopolized by work and church. In high school Cassandra had a variety of jobs that she did not necessarily need, but she enjoyed them and she enjoyed the freedom of having her own money. She worked for the City and County of Broomfield throughout high school and beyond, first as an umpire and a volleyball ref and later as a scorekeeper starting in tenth grade. In eleventh grade, she also got a job at her church Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Northglenn, Colorado helping with the children's faith formation programs. Her church also had bookstore that she worked at on weekends. In addition to all of the jobs, Cassandra was becoming increasingly involved in the youth group and its assorted activities. The youth group even had a coed high school softball team in the summers that allowed her to keep playing her favorite sport for fun.

It was while she was working at the church that her dad decided to join the rest of the family and become Catholic. In Figure 8.7 "Married Couples with Different Religions (Protestant, Catholic, Jewish) or Different Denominations (Among Protestants) by Birth Cohort," Fischer and Hout demonstrate how "Americans Were Increasingly Likely to Be Married to Someone of a Different Religion." The birth cohorts ranging from 1900 to 1919 were below 10%, but they steadily increased throughout the graph, ending just above 20% for the birth cohorts labeled "After 1959." The graph also depicts a similar pattern among the different Protestant denominations. although it is shifted up about 2-

5% at each of the benchmarks suggesting there was slightly less resistance to these types of marriages to begin with.³

The women on Cassandra's maternal side are Catholics going back several generations and a few have married outside the Catholic faith. Amy, Cassandra's mother, married Michael, her father, who was considered a Protestant, but his family rarely practiced any particular denomination.

Growing up in a family where the men were not practicing Catholics meant that when visiting her maternal grandparents, the men of the family did not always attend church, but stayed back to prepare dinner. When at home, Michael attended mass with his wife and children to set a good example and supported their participation in faith formation, but he himself remained reluctant to convert for many years. Finally, in 2010, when Cassandra was in 11th grade and working at their family church, he made the decision to enroll in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and was baptized and confirmed Catholic on Easter 2011. Many of Cassandra's friends had parents with similar stories of interfaith marriages that led to an eventual conversion to the Catholic faith by the Protestant parent.

In high school, Cassandra was a decent student, not because she tried especially hard in most cases, but simply because most things came easy. She struggled in classes like math, chemistry, and Spanish because she did not like the subject and did not enjoy spending time

³ Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 202.

studying. She enjoyed most science classes and social studies and excelled in them. Cassandra was able to earn quite a bit of college credit through Advanced Placement (AP) classes and dual credit courses in English, Spanish, and Social Studies. She also worked several semesters as an assistant for her favorite social studies teacher and one semester for a gym teacher where she not only enjoyed getting to know the teacher, but also observe behind the scenes aspects of being a teacher, which she already knew she wanted to be.

When she was a senior in high school, Cassandra was not in a hurry to pick a college. She knew she wanted to be a social studies teacher, she had known that since middle school, but she was not sure how far she wanted to go from home or how she was going to afford it. She applied to the University of Hawai'i and Catholic University of America in Washington D. C. for no other reason than to see if she could get in and what they would offer. Her only two serious college applications were to University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colorado and Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas. She was accepted to both and Benedictine invited her to participate in a scholarship competition. In February of 2012, Cassandra and her father road tripped to eastern Kansas to attend the scholarship competition along with two of her friends who had also been invited. Cassandra did not win the scholarship and her mother would have preferred that she attend the closer and cheaper state school, but Cassandra insisted that she would be going to Benedictine and by August she and five of her friends from church were making the nine-hour trek to Atchison, Kansas to start their college journey.

Cassandra made quite a few friends in college and enjoyed the smaller class sizes, but there was just something about college that made her want to graduate as fast as possible. Thanks to her credits she earned in high school, she was able to graduate college in three and a half years which is pretty unusual for an education major. Most of the classes were just a means to an end, but her favorite class was a Native American History class which was taught by a very eccentric professor who had grown up in the cornfields of Iowa, but had then gone to live with several different Native American tribes and get to know them. He took them on several field trips throughout the course to provide new experiences and opportunities.

At the end of her freshmen year, students were given the opportunity to apply for various jobs across campus like Resident Assistants (RA) or for campus ministry. Cassandra applied for an RA position as well as a lower level ministry job. She did not get anything she applied for, but was instead offered a leadership position on the ministry team as the Stewardship Coordinator. As the Stewardship Coordinator, Cassandra was in charge of writing the annual fundraising letter sent out to friends and family of the ministry members, supervising the other members of the team which included the people in charge of the fundraising accounts and the chaplain's assistant, working with the graphic designer to get the bi-annual fundraising pamphlet printed and mailed, and leading the team that planned the fall and spring talent shows. It was a daunting job, but one that taught her a lot of useful skills.

When Cassandra graduated in December 2015 moved back home to Colorado and returned to her jobs at the church and for the City and County of Broomfield, however, she was now a supervisor which meant she could work a lot more hours and activities. She also began subbing for the school district she had grown up in and a charter school. While she never really had any major issues, Cassandra hated subbing and preferred to pick up extra hours for the city when possible.

Finding a social studies teaching position in 2016 was very difficult. In the year and a half after she graduated college Cassandra submitted over one hundred job applications and went to dozens of interviews, but nobody hired her. Finally, in June 2017 a principal from San Luis High School in San Luis, Arizona called about an application she had submitted more than a year before and wanted to interview her. Days after the interview they called back and offered her the job. After speaking with her parents about the pros and cons and planning how to make it work on somewhat short notice, she accepted the job. In early July, Cassandra and her mom took a plane to Phoenix and then drove three more hours to Yuma, Arizona, a town close to San Luis with more living options, to look for an apartment. After looking at a few that did not leave her mother feeling comforted, they found a safer looking, albeit more expensive, apartment complex. The only problem was that the apartment would not be ready until about a week after school started, but they decided they would make it work.

At the end of July, Cassandra packed what she could into her Chevy Malibu and headed to Arizona. She was terrified because she had

never done anything like this alone. She was road tripping across unfamiliar roads to an unfamiliar place where she did not know anyone, but she made it and spent the first week of work living in a hotel room. The following weekend her parents arrived with the rest of her belongings and helped her move into her new apartment.

San Luis High School was an adjustment for Cassandra. San Luis, Arizona is 98.7% Hispanic and 36.3% of the 2,876 families live below the poverty line.⁴ The school was located approximately three miles from the border between the United States and Mexico and many students would cross the border every day to come to school even though they were supposed to have a United States address or pay tuition under the F-1 Visa program.⁵ Many of the students' parents worked in the fields fall through spring. San Luis did not have a lot to offer besides a Walmart and a few restaurants. The main buildings in the town were the schools and the Arizona State Prison Complex, these were the two largest employers in the area.⁶ However, most of the people employed by these two entities commuted from Yuma and a large portion of them were Caucasian and not of Hispanic descent. Many of the teachers were also transplants from other parts of the country, meaning the students were taught by people from very different cultures in many cases.⁷ Despite

⁴ "San Luis, Arizona," Wikipedia, accessed March 13, 2022, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Luis,_Arizona.

⁵ "Foreign Students in Public Schools," Travel.State.Gov., U.S. Department of State - Bureau of Consular Affairs, Accessed March 13, <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/student-visa/foreign-students-in-public-schools.html#:~:text=Foreign%20students%20may%20come%20to,not%20study%20in%20elementary%20school>.

⁶ "San Luis, Arizona," Wikipedia, accessed March 13, 2022, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Luis,_Arizona.

⁷ Personal knowledge of Cassandra Swisher.

the differences with her students Cassandra enjoyed teaching many of the same students for two years first in World History and then in United States History.

Many of Cassandra's friends in Yuma were medical professionals or teachers who had moved there to help get their careers started or as travelers only there for a short time. There is also a large population of United States Marines due to the presence of the Marine Corps Air Station. Schools, the United States Military, and medical facilities are five of the top six employers in Yuma. Approximately 70,000-85,000 "Snow-birds," people who move south in the winter, also call Yuma home between October and April. Because of this, the population is largely transient and Caucasian. Autumn also brought waves of migrant workers who came to work in the fields where 175 different crops are grown including 90% of the leafy vegetables in the United States.⁸ Between the transient population and the extreme heat, Yuma comes close to being a ghost town when all of the extra people leave for the summer.

After two years in Arizona, Cassandra decided at the end of the 2018-19 school year that it was time to move closer to her family. She knew Colorado would be very expensive, so she started brainstorming alternatives. Wyoming was a much more budget friendly option because of lower housing costs and higher teacher pay. After a few interviews, she was offered a job at Peak High School, an alternative school in Wheatland, Wyoming just two hours, on a traffic free day, from her

⁸ "Yuma, Arizona," Wikipedia, accessed March 13, 2022, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yuma,_Arizona#cite_note-8.

parents' house. Other than student teaching, Cassandra had never really spent a lot of time in a small school and she enjoyed going from classes of about 35 students to classes of fewer than ten students. Her favorite part was the ability to get to know her students more than she could before.

Even though she enjoyed the school a lot more than her last one, Cassandra struggled socially in the small town. In Yuma, she had been surrounded by single people who were always willing to do something, but in Wheatland most of the people were married and many had children so they did not have as much time or desire to hang out with others outside their household. Living alone was especially difficult when COVID-19 hit, but luckily short lived. The schools closed down for the last quarter of the school year and she was stuck at home with no one to talk to most of the time. Occasionally, she would spend time with friends, classmates, or students on video chat or call her parents, but for the most part she worked on grad school or watched television. Most of the people of Wyoming did not take well to lockdown and by summer most of the people had moved on with their lives.

To help fill the time of living alone, even before COVID-19 hit, Cassandra decided that it was time to pursue her Master's Degree in History, something she had thought about doing for some time. She applied to Adams State University, was accepted, and in January of 2020 she began taking classes. After three semesters, however, she decided the program was not offering her what she wanted so she contacted one of the professors at Pittsburg State University whom she had worked with on several projects and taken classes with during their time at

Benedictine College and asked about transferring. He helped her get in touch with the department chair and within a matter of weeks she had made the switch before the spring 2021 semester.

GENERATION TWO

Ala. Amy Kirsten Schmitt (1972-)

Alb. Michael David Swisher (1971-)

Amy Kirsten Swisher was born on September 14, 1972 in Stillwater, Oklahoma, to **Mary Frances Dunne (1943-)** and **William Patrick Schmitt (1947-)**. They lived in Yale, Oklahoma on a farm. She has an older sister, **Jennifer Lea (1971-)** and two younger sisters **Molly Kathleen (1980-)** and **Rebecca Ann (1982-)**

When Amy was born, her father was a student at Oklahoma State University and in the process of running for the United States House of Representatives for Oklahoma's 6th District. He did not win so shortly after he graduated, in 1974, the family moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma. It was in Tulsa that Amy attended Kindergarten, but before she started first grade the family moved yet again, this time to Buena Vista, Colorado in the summer of 1978.

The family first moved into a house in town while their new house was being built northwest of town. Her parents did a lot of the work on the house themselves and when they would Jennifer and Amy would go with them. That winter, even though the house was not finished, the family moved up to the new house when the pipes at the house in town froze. The move was a hard adjustment for Amy because in town they had friends nearby and could ride bikes with the girl next door, but at the new house, their friends and the conveniences of town were far away.⁹

⁹ Amy Swisher, Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 21, 2022.

Living in the country was not all bad though. Amy and her sisters had a lot of room to run around and play. They even got what many kids only dream of having, a pony. When they were older the girls got their own horses and they began competing in rodeos and 4-H competitions such as barrel racing and pole bending. Amy's horse was a reddish-brown Quarter horse named Tasa (pronounced Tasha. They also had several dogs, Amy's was named Freckles. One day, when she was about 13, her dad came home and said he had seen a puppy at a crumbling, abandon cabin near their house, so Amy went with her mom to try to find it. It took Amy about half an hour to coax the puppy out because it was so scared.¹⁰

Living in such a small town, everybody looked forward to the activities downtown. In the summer, they enjoyed events like June Fest, the Burro Races, and the Collegiate Peaks Stampede Rodeo. During the school year, Amy enjoyed playing several sports such as basketball, volleyball, and tennis. Going out to eat was also a treat reserved for special occasions. In high school, Amy got a job at K's, a popular hang out spot in the summer and where she would meet her future husband, Mike.

Michael David Swisher (1971-) was born in 1971 in Salida, Colorado. He was the youngest of five children and fourth son born to **Freda Louise Neighbours (1940-)** and **Melvin Stanley Swisher (1939-)**. He had five older siblings **Peggy Dawn (1961-)**, **Edward Wayne (1963-**

¹⁰ Ibid.

), **James Millard (1965-)**, and **Jerald Lynn (1969-)**. According to Michael, the trip home from the hospital after he was born was an eventful one. His father was pulled over for having expired inspection stickers on his vehicle, which was extra amusing to Mike because his father was an inspector and could have done them himself. When the officer approached the vehicle, his father addressed the officer by name and said "I didn't know you wanted to see our new baby" and then proceeded to give him a cigar. After admiring the new baby, the officer started heading back to his car before he remembered why he had pulled them over in the first place and turned to tell him to get the stickers renewed.¹¹

Michael's parents owned a trucking company in Buena Vista, Colorado where the family lived. His childhood was spent at the shop cleaning or helping fix things. At the age of 14 Michael had earned a Cummins Engine Certificate. Shortly there after however Mike got into an argument with his father and quit the family business to go work at Bob's Conoco. He liked the job for the most part, except when a wide vehicle would go through the carwash and he would have to go hold back the arms to keep them from bouncing off the vehicle and he got soaked. Despite the trucking business and his job at the gas station, Mike says he and his family was so poor that even the mud was dehydrated.¹²

At school, Mike was successful in the hands-on classes like woodshop, but struggled in the others. He played football his freshman year, but was ineligible his sophomore year. He tried again his junior

¹¹ Michael Swisher, Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 21, 2022.

¹² Ibid.

year, but quit again when he got into an argument with the coaches. Because football was out, he tried wrestling his senior year, but suffered a season ending knee injury two days before districts. Despite his struggles with school, Mike was able to graduate on time in 1989.

In summer of 1989, he went to K's, the restaurant that Amy was working. Mike was living on his own, having already graduated high school, and back working for his parents. Amy would be starting her senior year of high school that fall. When she graduated the following May he followed her to Greeley, Colorado where she attended the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) to study nursing. Mike got a job working for Cummins as a mechanic and lived in a small apartment near the college.

During the summer between her freshmen and sophomore years of college, Mike and Amy got married. On June 1, 1990, their friends and family gathered in Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Buena Vista to witness the union. In the fall, Amy entered her sophomore year at UNC.

After Amy's sophomore year in college, Mike's parents moved their trucking business from Buena Vista, Colorado to Denver, Colorado. They were contracted to help haul in the materials to build the runways for the construction of the Denver International Airport and they asked Mike to run the trucks at the site. Mike and Amy packed up their life and moved to an apartment in Denver.

After a little more saving, they were able to purchase their first home in Westminster, Colorado. It was a small, barn shaped house in a cul-du-sac. The upstairs was just one, open, carpeted room with a

toilet. Mike, being pretty handy with tools after years of being a mechanic and several woodshop classes, soon transformed the upper level into two bedrooms and a bathroom.¹³ It was not long after that they welcomed their first child, **Cassandra Michelle (1993-)**. A little over a year later they welcomed a puppy, Shadow, a German Shepherd and Husky mix.

Mike continued to work for his parents as a mechanic and occasional truck driver. Amy also helped out in the office for a while, but soon decided she wanted to return to school, so she enrolled at Front Range Community College in Westminster, Colorado. She soon earned her Licensed Practical Nursing certification, but the birth of their second child **Katelyn Marie (1997-)** made a job with such crazy hours impractical. So, Amy returned to working in the offices of trucking companies, this time for family friends.

Shortly after the birth of their second child, Mike and Amy realized they would need a bigger house and soon they found a three-bedroom house at the northern edge of Westminster. They were able to give their children their own rooms and a big backyard that did not back up to a busy street. The girls enjoyed their own room until they got life altering news, there was another baby on the way. In the spring of Cassandra's Kindergarten year, they welcomed their third child, a son, named **Brandon Michael (2000-)**.

Mike and Amy devoted themselves to being involved in their children's lives and demonstrating how to work hard for what you want.

¹³ Amy Swisher, Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 21, 2022.

Mike and Amy both volunteered as crossing guards at the elementary school for over a decade and never missed a school function or meeting. They both also volunteered to coach recreational sports for their children like softball and volleyball. When there was no school the kids would go to work with them. Despite the fact that Amy no longer worked for Mike's parents, both trucking companies shared an office building and a shop so the kids could go between both parents and even grandma. As the kids got older sending them to the shop with their dad to do some mundane job like polishing wheels or fixing tarps was a punishment far more effective than grounding, especially for the Cassandra, who hated getting her hands dirty.¹⁴ Brandon, however, was the opposite and still enjoys accompanying Mike to work and fixing things. As their kids got older Mike and Amy moved from a coaching role to one as spectators and cheerleaders, but still offered help and support when it was needed.

In 2015, when Mike's parents retired and sold their business, Mike searched for a new job as a mechanic, but none of the jobs available offered him the freedom and opportunities that he wanted. Knowing he still had a lot of friends in the trucking business, Mike decided to start his own business, Swisher Truck and Trailer Repair. He still enjoys the work, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to find suitable shop space in the Denver Metro Area.

¹⁴ Personal knowledge of Cassandra Swisher.

Now that their kids are grown, Mike and Amy have found that they have more free time. They have begun traveling more; exploring the places that they did not have the freedom to go to before.

GENERATION THREE

Ala1. Mary Frances Dunne (1943-)

Ala2. William Patrick "Pat" Schmitt (1947-)

Alb1. Freda Louise Neighbours (1940-)

Alb2. Melvin Stanley Swisher (1939-)

Mary Frances Dunne (1943-), was born at St. John's Medical Center in Jolliet, IL , on November 10, 1943, to **Helen Relf (1906-1990)** and **Patrick Kieran Dunne (1904-1977)**. She has an older sister, **Patricia Katherine Dunne (1936-)**.¹⁵

Being the youngest of the cousins, Mary was the subject of good-natured teasing by her older cousins, who were all boys and at least 10 years older. She also remembers her older cousins who were in the Navy during World War II would hold her on their lap and their dress uniforms were unbearably scratchy.¹⁶

Family was very important to the Dunne's as evidenced by their traditions. Growing up Sundays were family days. Every Sunday the whole family would do something together like go on a picnic, go to the zoo, or spend time with friends. Large family gatherings were a hallmark of important holidays like Christmas and birthdays.

Family vacations were road trips and done on the cheap. The family would stay in cheap roadside motels and cook their own food. They would frequently pack into the car and drive down the road from the motel to a picnic table where her father would pull out a small, charcoal stove. The meals were always simple like fried eggs and coffee.¹⁷

¹⁵ Mary Schmitt, Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 8, 2022.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

Because they cooked their own meals, Mary did not have the opportunity to eat out in a restaurant until she was in high school when the family went to a quaint little restaurant and had friend chicken.

Most of Mary's meals growing up were cooked by her mother, however, she does remember one time when her mother, who had been wanting new pots and pans, invited in a traveling salesman and allowed him to cook a meal for the family to demonstrate the pans. Helen not only got a night off from cooking, but a new set of Guardian Service cookware.¹⁸

Mary attended St. Patrick Grade School and then St. Francis Academy both in Joliet, Illinois. After she graduated high school, she attended the College of St. Francis in Joliet where she earned her bachelor's degree in sociology in 1965. She then continued her education at the University of Illinois, Chicago where she earned a masters in social work in 1968.

William Patrick "Pat" Schmitt (1947-) was born in Hemet, California on June 21, 1947 to **Camilla Dean Underwood (1926-2017)** and **Clarence Louis Orion Michael Schmitt (1920-1980)**. He has an older brother **Charles Michael "Mike" (1945-)**, and two younger siblings **Margaret Ann (1949-)** and **Edward Leo (1952-)**.¹⁹

When he was a baby his parents moved to Vallejo, California and both of them worked at Mare Island Naval Base. His Father, Orion, was an electronics engineer for the Navy and his mother worked for the government driving different vehicles around and making pickups and de-

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Pat Schmitt, Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 8, 2022.

liveries. They would eventually live in three different places in California. Two of those were government housing projects and the third was a real house on 38 Hollywood Avenue.

Since he was so young, Pat does not have a lot of memories from California, but he does have a few. He remembers seeing the Aurora Borealis from the apartment they were living in when he was in kindergarten. According to the Los Angeles Times the northern lights were visible in California in July 1951 and it caused quite a stir. The author talks of a man during World War I who was spooked by the lights because they were illuminating a German bomber, it is possible as the Cold War was heating up many felt a similar fear when they first saw the lights.²⁰

Another memory was his adventures with his brother, Mike. When they lived in their second apartment, both boys received their first bikes, but were told they could not ride them until they scraped off the old paint and repainted them. Because of this they did not get the bikes until they lived in the house.²¹

Their last summer in California, Mike and Pat were dropped off at their grandparents' house and spent the summer bouncing between relatives. They both wanted to stay at the end of the summer, mostly because there was no way to get to school there. They returned home and to school where Pat started the fourth grade. By the middle of the year, however, the Schmitt family was on the move again, this time to Albuquerque, New Mexico where they experienced one of the worst winter

²⁰ J. Hugh Pruett, "Aurora Trips Over Dancing Starlight," *Los Angeles Times*, September 23, 1951.

²¹ Pat Schmitt, Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 8, 2022.

storms of the century, according to Pat.²² As they were moving Mike and Pat had to get out and shovel so that they could finish moving.

The house in New Mexico was the last one out of town; just desert and mountains past their house. Being outside of town, the boys were excited when they received brand new Schwinn bikes for Christmas the following year, even though they had to use their hard-earned lawnmowing money to help pay for them. According to Pat, the bikes were a blessing and a curse; because they had them they had to ride them to school even on the coldest days of winter and the hottest fall and spring days.²³

One summer, while they were still living in New Mexico, Pat's mother took all four kids to Oklahoma for the summer. As usual Mike and Pat were inseparable and frequently wandering off from the rest of the family. Their favorite part of the summer was being able to shoot, hunt, and ride horses. It was also the only time the two boys got into a fight. According to Pat the boys were out replanting part of a peanut field that had been washed out in a storm and they started fighting over an unknown or undisclosed cause, but Pat ended the fight when he picked up a hoe and broke the handle across his brother's back. His punishment was spending the rest of the day working with a broken hoe and later buying a new handle.²⁴

The Schmitt family remained in Albuquerque until the end of Pat's seventh grade year when the family moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma where they lived in a rented house. In Tulsa, the children attended Catholic

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

schools until Pat was in tenth grade when they moved to north Tulsa and he enrolled in a three-year, public high school. At his new high school, Pat threw shot put for the track team where he earned the school record, which he claims to still hold. After graduation he attended Oklahoma State University for a year until he decided that was not for him.

After dropping out of college, Pat joined the army where he was shuffled back and forth across the country to various training camps and trained as a medic. After serving in the emergency room at his permanent duty station for a while, Pat grew restless and volunteered to go to Vietnam where he was assigned to C Company, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry.²⁵

On January 10, 1968, he was injured for the first time when he was shot across his back. The injury landed him in a hospital in Japan and should have been his ticket home, but according to him, a disagreement with the doctor resulted in him being sent back to the front lines after six weeks. On June 8, 1968, he was injured again, this time much more serious, when he stepped on a land mine. He was taken to the hospital in their base camp and Mike, who had joined the Marines around the time Pat joined the Army, was allowed to come visit him because he was not expected to make it. He ultimately lost both legs above the knee, his left arm above the elbow, and parts of some fingers on his right hand.²⁶

²⁵ Pat and Mary Schmitt, Family Album

²⁶ Pat Schmitt, Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 8, 2022.

Once he was stable, he was then transferred to a hospital in Japan for several weeks before being sent back to the United States where he stayed in the Fort Sam Huston Army Hospital until just before Christmas. Pat was then transferred to the VA Hospital in Muskogee, Oklahoma and allowed to go home for Christmas.

Shortly after Christmas, he had to return to the hospital to undergo further surgeries. In January 1969, he was transferred to Hines VA Hospital in Chicago, Illinois where he remained until March 1970. While in Chicago he met Mary, who was working as a social worker at the hospital. Their first date was on Veterans Day 1969 when a group of patients and staff went bowling. He proposed on February 14, 1970 when he asked her if she wanted to go ring shopping.²⁷

Their wedding was simple. They drove up to Marquette University where a priest Mary was friends with was working on an advanced degree and asked him to perform the ceremony. They got married at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Joliet, Illinois. Mary's Maid of Honor was her friend Mary Ellen Grohar and Pat's Best Man was his friend Jim Milliken. Her dress was champagne color and short because Pat was walking with new prosthetic legs and she did not want a long dress to get in his way.²⁸

Shortly after they were married Pat and Mary moved to Yale, Oklahoma which Mary described as a big shock going from a city like Chicago to a small town of approximately 200 people. Once they were settled, Pat

²⁷ Pat and Mary Schmitt, Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 8, 2022.

²⁸ Mary Schmitt, Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 8, 2022.

returned to school at Oklahoma State University and Mary began preparing for their first child who was born the following January. In *Made in America: A Social History of American Culture and Character*, Claude S. Fischer talked about how Americans in the nineteenth century saw a huge growth in political involvement, but by the twentieth century that had begun decreasing again.²⁹ Pat, like many who had been affected by the Vietnam War, was not one who could be counted among the decrease in population, in fact he was very determined to help make changes. As a student studying Political Science, Pat was politically active. In 1972, he filed to run as a Democrat against the incumbent who he described as a "do nothing Republican on the order of Ike." He did his best putting, 26,000 miles on his pickup while campaigning. He was also taking six college classes and they welcomed their second child, Amy two months before the election. When she was born he took Jennifer to class with him. Unfortunately, he tripped walking on his prosthetic legs about three weeks before the election and broke his right hip, this slowed down his last-minute campaigning. In the end he only got about 30% of the votes. After he graduated from Oklahoma State University with his Bachelor's Degree, Pat enrolled in the University of Tulsa's Law Program so the family moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma.³⁰

²⁹ Claude S. Fischer, *Made in America: A Social History of American Culture and Character* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010), Kindle Edition, 9.

³⁰ Pat Schmitt, Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 8, 2022.

Often confined to a wheelchair, Pat quickly realized how inaccessible many places were. One of his biggest challenges was finding adequate parking at the colleges he attended. When he complained about the parking he was told to park on the sidewalks. So, he did.³¹

When Pat graduated with his law degree, he opened an office in Tulsa, but that was short lived. After attempting to work in an unheated office for several weeks, Pat sold his practice, library, and furniture then informed the landlord that he did not have to honor his rental agreement because the conditions were intolerable. When he got home, he told Mary they were moving and asked her where she wanted to go. She chose Colorado. On a spring break trip, they visited Buena Vista, Colorado and while they were there, they purchased 40 acres. When they returned home, Pat offered to sell his parents half interest in his and Mary's Tulsa home so that they could move out of an apartment they hated.³²

When they got to Buena Vista, Pat purchased a small house in town after looking for a rental proved fruitless, then they began building their house on their 40 acres. At first, they used a contractor, but a dispute quickly led to them building most of the house with their own two hands.³³ Frozen pipes in the house in town led to them moving into the house before it was finished.

Much like the parking issues at the colleges, the accessibility issues continued in Colorado. When Pat was sworn into the Colorado Bar

³¹ Pat Schmitt, Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 8, 2022.

³² Ibid.

³³ Jennifer Struble, "A Tribute to William Patrick Schmitt: The Strongest Man I Know," *Tulsa Lawyer Magazine*, November 2017, 8-9.

in the fall of 1978, he and Mary attended a ceremony at a museum in Denver. The new lawyers being sworn in were expected to sit on a stage accessible only by stairs. Mary at a loss, asked some men in suits to help, and they did. Later in the ceremony the men were introduced. She remembers realizing that one of the men who helped was the Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court.³⁴

In September 1980, Pat and Mary welcomed their third daughter Molly Kathleen and in July 1982 their fourth and final daughter, Rebecca Ann. They raised their daughters to enjoy a variety of activities including horseback riding. Pat was even able to find a few gentle horses named Blaze and Susie Q and creatively engineer a saddle he could use to ride them. Mary had a horse named Babe. She also ensured that their daughters were raised in the Catholic faith. Both parents also valued education and pushed the girls to do their best in school.

Pat and Mary also quickly established themselves within the community. Pat worked as a lawyer and judge in Buena Vista and was a part of a part of many groups ranging from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) to the Collegiate Peak Stampede Rodeo Committee.³⁵ Mary worked as a social worker at the Salida Hospital which later became the Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center in Salida, Colorado from 1987-2012. In her free time, she helped create a Parent Teacher Organization (PTA) at the local school and served on various church committees. She was even on a bowling team for about five years.³⁶ In their

³⁴ Mary Schmitt, Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 8, 2022.

³⁵ Personal Knowledge of Cassandra Swisher.

³⁶ Mary Schmitt, Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 8, 2022.

book, *Made in America: A Social History of American Culture and Character*, Fischer and Hout discuss the growing participation in groups throughout the United States.³⁷ Pat and Mary took advantage of the growing popularity of groups to make a variety of friends in their new town and help establish themselves as part of the town.

At the end of his career as a lawyer, Pat tried once again to speak up against injustice. The judge serving the county at the time was not following the rules because he was not a resident of the county. He had sold everything and moved to Florida, but would return once a month to hear a few cases. His complaint angered the District Judge and Pat received an order saying that any case in which he represented either party would not be heard. Since he no longer was in business as a lawyer, Pat went to the next best option, substitute teaching.

As a member of the school board he had made the acquaintance of a teacher certified to teach education classes. With her help, a correspondence course in world history, and a semester of commuting back and forth over the mountains to Gunnison, Colorado to attend classes, he became a full-time sub and closed up his law office.

Pat and Mary still live in Buena Vista, Colorado in the house they built together. For most holidays at least two of their daughters and their families can be found packed into the three-bedroom house. Their favorite times, however, are when everyone is home together. They also enjoy the freedom to spend most of their Februarys in Hawai'i.

³⁷ Claude S. Fischer, *Made in America: A Social History of American Culture and Character* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010), Kindle Edition, 8.

Freda Louise "Lou" Neighbours was born on November 29, 1940 to **Clara C. Hannsen (1914-1953)** and **Floyd Edward Neighbours (1914-2009)** in Pueblo, Colorado. Her sister, **Nancy (1942-)**, was born in 1942. Growing up her mother was sick and when Lou was 11 she passed away. At her mother's funeral, Lou's grandmother and aunt were discussing what to do with Lou and her sister, but when Lou heard this, she informed them that she was going home with her father. So, Lou and her sister went home and Lou took up the responsibilities of the house.³⁸

Her father did his best to take care of the girls. He built small houses which he sold to the bank for \$2,000, the bank would then sell them to the Mexican workers in Pueblo for \$5,000. She described the houses as 20x40 shacks with four rooms: two bedrooms, a kitchen, and a living room. They did not have bathrooms and frequently lacked windows as well. Because he built houses, there were a few times that Lou came home from school to discover that they had moved to a different house.³⁹

When she was in high school, Lou moved in with her grandparents to attend school in Cañon City. While she was there, she got a job at the local A&W stand working with a young woman named Susie. The two became friends and it was not long before Susie introduced Lou to her brother Mel.

Melvin Stanley Swisher was born on March 28, 1939 to **Gertrude Izuma Breedlove (1907-2001)** and **Lester Arthur Swisher (1904-1970)** in their

³⁸ Lou Swisher, Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 21, 2022.

³⁹ Ibid.

home in Cañon City, Colorado. There were no doctors available so he was delivered by his father.

When the United States joined in World War II, Mel's parents headed to California to join in the war effort. Even though he was so young, Mel had to wear dog tags with his identifying information in case the Japanese bombed the West Coast. After the war, they returned home to Colorado. In their book, *Made in America: A Social History of American Culture and Character*, Fischer and Hout touch on the theme of the growing physical and economic safety in the United States.⁴⁰ While that may have been true in general in the United States during the twentieth century, Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor left many in California living in fear that they could be the next target.

One thing from his childhood that was a little strange was that his sister, Helen, who was only two years older than him never went to the same school as him. The story was that when his sister Peggy went to first grade, Helen begged to go with her and was allowed to attend at the age of four. Mel started school a year later than other students his age and would later be held back in second grade further widening the gap between the two siblings in school. When Helen graduated high school, he was still in middle school.⁴¹

When he was not at school, Mel sold newspapers on the streets of Cañon City. His parents had an official paper route delivering the paper from Colorado Springs to Cañon City, so he would take a stack of the

⁴⁰ Claude S. Fischer, *Made in America: A Social History of American Culture and Character* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010), Kindle Edition, 8.

⁴¹ Melvin Swisher, Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 21, 2022.

papers and sell them on the corner. He said that he met a lot of interesting people in the time that he did this job. One story he tells is about an old man with a popcorn wagon. This man had been crippled by a stroke and was unable to find jobs in town, so he made his living by pushing a popcorn wagon. He would sell his popcorn in front of the Safeway store until it closed at 5:30pm and then he would push it a few blocks over to the movie theater and sell popcorn there until they closed. After that he would push the cart several blocks to his house where he kept it in his garage. A woman named, Tiny Striegel captured the likeness of the man, Charley Bower.⁴² Later in life Mel would acquire a photo Ms. Striegel took of Mr. Bower and a photo she had taken of him as a young boy selling newspapers.⁴³

One day, when he was older he went to the A&W Root Beer stand where his sister, Susie, worked and met Lou, her friend and coworker. After dating for a few short months, Mel asked Lou "You want to get married or what?" as he was getting out of her car one night and she said "well, I guess." On November 12, 1958 they eloped to Salida, Colorado where they were married at 9:00pm that evening by the judge with two of the judge's neighbors as witnesses, one of which, according to Lou, was wearing her house coat and curlers. When Mel and Lou told their parents, they were in disbelief and asked to see the marriage license. They thought that they two got married because Lou was pregnant, which

⁴² "This Butter Be Good," Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center, January 19, 2019, <https://museum.canoncreek.org/?p=615>.

⁴³Personal knowledge of Cassandra Swisher.

she was not since their oldest child was not born for another two and a half years.⁴⁴

When they got married, Mel was working for his parents, then he started working at the wholesale grocery store in town for seventy hours a week. After a few years of that, he decided it was time for another change and at the age of 25 he began working at the Colorado Territorial Correctional Facility, known as "Old Max." The prison was opened in 1871 and has housed some of the worst criminals.⁴⁵

Mel's dream was to be his own boss and own a trucking line, so while he was still working at the penitentiary, he and Lou purchased a truck. On his days off they used the truck for a variety of odd jobs like picking up fresh bales hay in the field, discarded bailing wire for recycle in Pueblo which they used to make money for groceries, and delivering firewood to Denver. They used that truck to supplement the income as their family grew. On the day that Lou went to the hospital to be induced with her fourth child, **Jerald Lynn (1969-)**, they took the truck with them so that they could deliver a load near the hospital. According to Lou, people thought they were crazy for doing that.⁴⁶ That did not stop them though. She also said that when they were ready to go home, the nurse asked the older kids what they thought of their new sister when she brought the baby out because she had assumed that Jerry Lynn was a girl's name, but Edward set her straight.⁴⁷

⁴⁴ Melvin Swisher, Personal Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 21, 2022.

⁴⁵ "Old Max," Royal Gorge Region, accessed April 21, 2022, <https://royal-gorgeregion.com/old-max/>.

⁴⁶ Lou Swisher, Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 21, 2022.

⁴⁷ Melvin and Lou Swisher, Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 21, 2022.

During their early years as a family Mel and Lou also had the opportunity to take over a gas station in Westcliffe, Colorado. The gas station, according to Lou, had a very picky neighbor who also owned a gas station. When Mel would sweep out the bays, if a rock went over the line onto the neighbor's property, he would pick it up and pitch it back onto their property.⁴⁸ They enjoyed their time at the filling station, but they were soon told the lease would not be renewed, so they moved their family back to Cañon City.

Soon after they received another intriguing offer. They were asked if they wanted to purchase Eveready Trucking one day when Mel was out delivering a load. They pooled their resources with another man and purchased the trucking company. Once again, Mel and Lou packed up their family, this time to move to Buena Vista, Colorado. At the time Lou was pregnant with her fifth child. On the same day that Michael David was born, their partner told Mel that he wanted bought out and so they did and they started life as a family of seven and as the sole proprietors of a trucking company.

In Figure 5.6 "Occupational Distribution of the Economically Active Population: Persons Age Twenty-Five to Sixty-Four" Fischer and Hout demonstrate how "White-Collar Jobs Grew as Farming Disappeared."⁴⁹ One graph demonstrates how there was a decrease in skilled manual workers starting in about 1970. Another graph in the set portrays a slow, but still substantial decline in the number of proprietors after 1960.⁵⁰

⁴⁸ Lou Swisher, Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 21, 2022.

⁴⁹ I. Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 109.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

Mel and Lou went against both of these trends in becoming proprietors of multiple businesses and with Mel's knowledge of machines that he used to keep his fleet running.

They had many adventures in Buena Vista. Mel, always accident prone, had more than a few incidents. One time he was working on a truck at their house trying to pry out a piece with a bar to change the clutch when the truck started rolling down the driveway because he forgot to put blocks behind the tires. Because there was no way he would be able to get out from under the truck safely, Mel just hung on for dear life until the truck stopped when it hit a tree across the road.⁵¹ Several of their children have similar stories from growing up around the shop. They would ride the bus to the shop after school and help with various odd jobs. This would lead to three of their sons becoming mechanics.⁵²

Their business also led to other business opportunities. In one instance, Lou hired a young woman to help in the office, but soon realized office work was not the right fit for her. Since the woman had previously worked as a hairdresser, Lou decided to purchase a space for the girl to work as a hairdresser in town so that she could continue to employ her. After she opened the beauty shop someone suggested that Lou open a beauty school as well, and after some research, she did. Unfortunately, the bank that they were working with in town had some difficulties so the beauty shop and school were forced to close, but not before Michael's hair was permed.⁵³

⁵¹ Melvin Swisher, Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 21, 2022.

⁵² Personal Knowledge of Cassandra Swisher.

⁵³ Lou Swisher, Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 21, 2022.

Mel and Lou continued to operate their business out of Buena Vista, Colorado, but it was not particularly profitable so they tried Silverton, Colorado, but after a year and a half there they decided to try their luck in Denver. They operated their business, much more profitably, in Denver with their son Michael for twenty-five years in Denver.

After several decades of working hard Mel and Lou were ready to head out on well-earned cruise when a man approached them wanting to appraise the business, they told him to go ahead and left for their trip. When they returned the man told them the business was worth a lot more than they imagined, or believed, but they told him to see if he could get them that much.⁵⁴ Within a few weeks Mel and Lou were retired and wondering what to do with their time.

Not ones to sit idle, Mel and Lou were soon taking a friend's advice and using their land in Buena Vista to construct a line of modular homes they are hoping to sell to people wanting to move to Buena Vista. They also enjoy travelling in their motor home to visit their children spread across the United States.

⁵⁴ Lou Swisher, Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 21, 2022.

GENERATION FOUR

Ala1a. Helen Relf (1906-1990)

Ala1b. Patrick Kieran Dunne (1904-1977)

Ala2a. Camilla Dean Underwood (1926-2017)

Ala2b. Clarence Louis Orion Michael Schmitt (1920-1980)

Alb1a. Clara C. Hannsen (1914-1953)

Alb1b. Floyd Edward Neighbours (1914-2009)

Alb2a. Gertrude Izuma Breedlove (1907-2001)

Alb2b. Lester Arthur Swisher (1904-1970)

Helen Relf (1906-1990) was born on August 2, 1904 in Jackson Township, Will County, Illinois to **Charles Relf (1870-1916)** and **Ellen Manton (1876-1957)**. **Patrick Kieran Dunne (1904-1977)** was born on March 12, 1903 in Balleygooney, County Kilkenny, Ireland to **Edward Dunne (1855-1935)** and **Kate Finn (1864-1929)**.⁵⁵ Patrick moved to the United States on the ship *America* that arrived at Ellis Island on September 11, 1925. On September 25, 1933, he became a citizen of the United States and less than a year later, on September 11, 1934, he married Helen.⁵⁶ They had two daughters together **Patricia Katherine Dunne (1936-)** and **Mary Frances Dunne (1943-)**. He worked as a machinist for the railroads. Helen worked at a local calendar company. It is possible that, living so close to Chicago, Helen and Patrick got their news from the *Chicago Tribune* during the later years of their life.⁵⁷ Patrick passed away in 1977 from an aortic aneurism. Helen lived until 1990 when she passed away from kidney failure.⁵⁸

⁵⁵ Copy of Birth Certificate of Patrick Kieran Dunne in Mary Schmitt's possession.

⁵⁶ Mary Schmitt, Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 8, 2022.

⁵⁷ "Chicago Tribune (Chicago, Ill.) 1963-Current [Online Resource]," Library of Congress, accessed March 23, 2022, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2011267055/>.

⁵⁸ William Patrick and Mary Schmitt, Family Album.

Camilla Dean Underwood (1926-2017) was born on January 14, 1926 in Gracemont, Oklahoma to **William Burton Underwood (1897-1989)** and Ethel Nancy Hardy **(1895-1958)**. **Clarence Louis Orion Michael Schmitt (1920-1980)** was born on May 20, 1920 in Los Angeles, California to **Charles Benjamin Schmitt (unk.)** and **Irene Bell (1885-unk.)**.⁵⁹ They got married on June 25, 1945 in Los Angeles, California.⁶⁰ They had four children together **Charles Michael "Mike" (1945-)**, **William Patrick "Pat" Schmitt (1947-)**, **Margaret Ann (1949-)**, and **Edward Leo (1952-)**.⁶¹ Orion died in 1980 from a heart attack and kidney disease.⁶² Camilla lived until 2017 where she passed away in Tulsa, Oklahoma.⁶³

Clara C. Hannsen (1914-1953) was born on January 13, 1914 to **Hermann Fredrick Hanssen (1886-1970)** and **Louisa Elza Schulze (1884-1980)**. In 1920 her family lived in Custer, Colorado.⁶⁴ **Floyd Edward Neighbours (1914-2009)** was born January 10, 1914 in Sparks, Oklahoma to **Iva Mae Faughn (1881-1958)** and **James Levin Neighbours (1881-1958)**.⁶⁵ They got

⁵⁹ "California, County Birth and Death Records, 1800-1994," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QGL4-W9TT> : 1 March 2021), Clarence Louis Orion Michael Schmitt, 20 May 1920; citing Birth, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, United States, California State Archives, Sacramento.

⁶⁰ "California, County Marriages, 1850-1952," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K8VB-RLF> : 9 March 2021), Orion M Schmitt and Camilla Underwood, 25 Jun 1945; citing Los Angeles, California, United States, county courthouses, California; FHL microfilm 2,115,069.

⁶¹ William Patrick Schmitt, Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 8, 2022.

⁶² William Patrick and Mary Schmitt, Family Album.

⁶³ Personal knowledge of Cassandra Swisher

⁶⁴ "United States Census, 1920", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MX2Z-65C> : 31 January 2021), Clara C Hanssen in entry for Hermann F Hanssen, 1920.

⁶⁵ "United States Census, 1920", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MNBB-762> : 3 February 2021), Floyd E Neighbours in entry for J L Neighbours, 1920.

married on December 15, 1937 in Westcliffe, Colorado.⁶⁶ The couple welcomed two daughters **Freda Louise "Lou" Neighbours (1940-)** and **Nancy (1942-)**. Unfortunately, at the young age of 39, Clara passed away after an extended illness.⁶⁷ Floyd worked hard to raise the girls on his own building small homes in Pueblo and selling them to the bank.⁶⁸ It was not until his daughters were married that Floyd remarried. He and his second wife **Dorothy Jane Watson (1922-2015)** moved to various cities finally settling in Grand Junction, Colorado where they lived the rest of their lives. Floyd passed away on November 4, 2009.⁶⁹

Gertrude Izuma Breedlove (1907-2001) was born October 27, 1904 in Kokomo, Indiana to **Lottie Ellen Fern McGail (1883-1948)** and **Fred Breedlove (1879-1941)**.⁷⁰ **Lester Arthur Swisher (1904-1970)** was born on May 30, 1904 in Kokomo, Indiana to **Sarah Elizabeth Keever (1880-1906)** and **Thomas Jeremiah Swisher (1869-1942)**.⁷¹ They got married May 2, 1925

⁶⁶ "Colorado Statewide Marriage Index, 1853-2006," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KNQN-WWW> : 19 February 2021), Floyd Neighbours and Clara Hanssen, 15 Dec 1937, Westcliffe, Custer, Colorado, United States; citing no. , State Archives, Denver; FHL microfilm 1,690,114.

⁶⁷ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/42369582/clara-c-neighbours> : accessed 29 April 2022), memorial page for Clara C. *Hanssen* Neighbours (13 Jan 1914-10 Jun 1953), Find a Grave Memorial ID 42369582, citing Hope Lutheran Cemetery, Westcliffe, Custer County, Colorado, USA ; Maintained by D A (contributor 47175252) .

⁶⁸ Lou Swisher, Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 21, 2022.

⁶⁹ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/117634733/floyd-edward-neighbours> : accessed 29 April 2022), memorial page for Floyd Edward Neighbours (10 Jan 1914-4 Nov 2009), Find a Grave Memorial ID 117634733, citing IOOF Cemetery, Grand Junction, Mesa County, Colorado, USA ; Maintained by Ralph Terry (contributor 47372532) .

⁷⁰ "United States Census, 1920", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MF72-H1S> : 1 February 2021), Gertrude Breedlove in entry for Fred Breedlove, 1920.

⁷¹ "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MKPM-FKJ> : accessed 29 April 2022), Lester Swisher in household of Thomas Swisher, Center, Howard, Indiana, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 119, sheet 3A, family 49, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 355; FHL microfilm 1,374,368.

while still living in their hometown.⁷² They had six children that made it past infancy: **Robert Wayne (1927-1975)**, **Virginia Rae (1931-unk.)**, **Winnifred "Peggy" (1934-)**, **Helen (1937-unk.)**, **Elizabeth Karin "Suzie" (1941-unk.)** and **Doris "Skip" (1943-2012)**. They moved to Colorado in the early 1930s when Lester was diagnosed with Tuberculosis.⁷³ According to Mel, his parents stopped in Limon because they ran out of money. They lived in abandoned houses on ranches that had consolidated to make supersized ranches. Lester and Gertrude heard about a job for the railroad, but feared that Lester would be too weak to do it. He was assured that he need only stand when a train go by and could sit in the booth otherwise. During his lunches, Lester would take off his shirt and lay out in the sun. After a month of this Gertrude noticed that his appetite was returning because the sun was drying the Tuberculosis out of his lungs.⁷⁴

Despite the job the family still struggled to have enough to eat. Lester and Gertrude would go out hunting at night, waiting for rabbits to come out for water. When they did, Lester would shoot while Gertrude held the light. Tired of never having enough, they moved their family to Cañon City, Colorado because they had the best welfare program in the state.⁷⁵

They stayed in Cañon City until the United States joined World War II, then they moved to San Francisco, California to join in the

⁷² "Indiana Marriages, 1811-2019", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:D4KP-VH3Z> : 28 March 2022), Gertrude Breedlove in entry for Lester Swisher, 1925.

⁷³ Melvin Swisher, Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 21, 2022.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

war effort.⁷⁶ They then returned to Cañon City after the war where they would take a job delivering the Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph which merged the Colorado Springs Gazette and the Colorado Springs Evening Telegraph in 1946.⁷⁷ It was not great money, but it was a steady income that allowed Lester to purchase a brand new, green, 1949, pickup to use for his deliveries. He would take two kids with him to stuff newspapers in mailboxes.⁷⁸

In Figure 6.5 "Consumer Expenditures for Food and Recreation, by year," Fischer and Hout demonstrate how "Consumers' Spending Shifted from Food to Recreation."⁷⁹ The graph depicts a somewhat steep, but steady decline in the spending for food and a slow, but steadily increase in recreational spending.⁸⁰ Lester and Gertrude demonstrate this through their struggle to put food on the table early in their marriage and the shift to being able to spend money on luxuries like a brand new pickup truck.

⁷⁶ "California Birth Index, 1905-1995," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VG33-2KM> : 27 November 2014), Elizabeth Karin Swisher, 27 Sep 1941; citing San Francisco, California, United States, Department of Health Services, Vital Statistics Department, Sacramento.

⁷⁷ "Colorado Springs Gazette-Telegraph (Colorado Springs, Colo.) 1946-1997," Library of Congress, accessed April 21, 2022, <https://www.loc.gov/item/sn82015766/>.

⁷⁸ Melvin Swisher, Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 8, 2022.

⁷⁹ 1. Claude S. Fischer and Michael Hout, *Century of Difference; How America Changed in the Last One Hundred Years* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), 155.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

Lester passed away in Cañon City on February 6, 1970.⁸¹ Gertrude went on to live several more decades and passed away on April 7, 2001.⁸²

⁸¹ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/105093501/lester-arthur-swisher> : accessed 29 April 2022), memorial page for Lester Arthur Swisher (30 May 1904-6 Feb 1970), Find a Grave Memorial ID 105093501, citing Lakeside Cemetery, Canon City, Fremont County, Colorado, USA ; Maintained by Beth in Colorado (contributor 47321605) .

⁸² *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/105093473/gertrude-izuma-swisher> : accessed 29 April 2022), memorial page for Gertrude Izuma Breedlove Swisher (27 Oct 1907-7 Apr 2001), Find a Grave Memorial ID 105093473, citing Lakeside Cemetery, Canon City, Fremont County, Colorado, USA ; Maintained by Beth in Colorado (contributor 47321605) .

Generation Five

A1a1a1. Ellen Manton (1876-1957)
A1a1a2. Charles Relf (1870-1916)

A1a1b1. Kate Finn (1855-1835)
A1a1b2. Edward Dunne (1864-1939)

A1a2a1. Ethel Nancy Hardy (1897-1989)
A1a2a2. William Burton Underwood (1895-1958)

A1a2b1. Irene Bell (1885-)
A1a2b2. Charles Benjamin Schmitt (1882-1938)

A1b1a1. Louisa Elza Schulze (1884-1980)
A1b1a2. Hermann Fredrick Hanssen (1886-1970)

A1b1b1. Iva Mae Faughn (1881-1958)
A1b1b2. James Levin Neighbours (1881-1958)

A1b2a1. Lottie Ellen Fern McGail (1883-1948)
A1b2a2. Fred Breedlove (1879-1941)

A1b2b1. Sarah Elizabeth Keever (1880-1906)
A1b2b2. Thomas Jeremiah Swisher (1869-1942)

Ellen Manton (1876-1957) was born on August 18, 1876 in Elwood, Illinois to **Patrick Manton (1830-1909)** and **Mary Whalen (1848-1938)**.

Charles Relf (1870-1916) was born October 16, 1870 in Lockport, Illinois to **Fred Relf (1827-unk.)** and **Sarah Beecher (unk.)**.

Kate Finn (1864-1939) was born in 1864 in Queens County, Ireland.

Edward Dunne (1855-1935) was born in 1855 in Balleygooney, County Kilkenny, Ireland.

Ethel Nancy Hardy (1897-1989) was born in on September 23, 1897 in Van Buren, Arkansas to **Thomas Jefferson Hardy (1874-1962)** and **Cora Lee Deason (1880-1969)**.⁸³ **William Burton Underwood (1895-1958)** was born in

⁸³ "United States Census, 1900", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M3X8-GR4> : 8 March 2022), Ethel Hardy in entry for Thomas Hardy, 1900.

January of 1895 in the Craig and Mountain Townships of Van Buren, Arkansas to **John L. Underwood (1869-1948)** and **Paralee Waddell (1873-1951)**.⁸⁴ They married on September 18, 1915 in Van Buren Arkansas.⁸⁵ Some time between 1915 and 1917 they moved to Caddo, Oklahoma because in 1917 William received a United States Draft Card at his residence there.⁸⁶ It is unclear in what capacity if any that he served. In 1924, the couple welcomed their first child, a daughter, named **Ouida Jean (1924-2008)**.⁸⁷ Their second child, **Camilla Dean (1926-2017)**⁸⁸ arrived in 1926. In 1928, the couple welcomed their third child, this time a son, **John Tom (1928-2017)**.⁸⁹ In 1942, William received a second United States Draft Card.⁹⁰ It is unclear the role he played in this war as well. William died in 1958 in Gracemont, Caddo, Oklahoma.⁹¹ Ethel lived

⁸⁴ "United States Census, 1900", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M3X8-VMR> : 9 March 2022), William B Underwood in entry for John L Underwood, 1900.

⁸⁵ "Arkansas, County Marriages, 1837-1957," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:N99K-MYD> : 9 March 2021), Bert Underwood, 19 Sep 1915; citing Marriage, Van Buren, Arkansas, United States, county offices, Arkansas; FHL microfilm 1,031,204.

⁸⁶ "United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KZD2-31C> : 25 December 2021), Wm Bert Underwood, 1917-1918.

⁸⁷ Pat Schmitt, Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 8, 2022.

⁸⁸ "Oklahoma, School Records, 1895-1936," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q2FY-P759> : 17 March 2018), Camilla Underwood, 1936; citing School enrollment, Gracemont, Caddo, Oklahoma, United States, multiple County Clerk offices, Oklahoma school district offices, Oklahoma; FHL microfilm 2,022,555.

⁸⁹ Pat Schmitt, Interview with Cassandra Swisher, April 8, 2022.

⁹⁰ "United States World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XPB8-VM2> : 24 November 2020), William Bert Underwood, 1942; citing NARA microfilm publication M1936, M1937, M1939, M1951, M1962, M1964, M1986, M2090, and M2097 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

⁹¹ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/64013291/bert-underwood> : accessed 29 April 2022), memorial page for Bert Underwood (1895-1958), Find a Grave Memorial ID 64013291, citing Gracemont Cemetery, Gracemont, Caddo County, Oklahoma, USA ; Maintained by Nancy Charlton (contributor 47379126).

for many more years, but there is some conflict over the year, sources range from 1989-2000.

Irene Bell (1885-unk.) was born in 1885 in Cañon City, Colorado to **Matthew Bell (1854-1899)** and **Clara Bell (1867-unk.)**. **Charles Benjamin Schmitt (1882-1938)** was born in 1882 to Henry Schmitt (unk.) and Emma Fisher (unk.) and died in Los Angeles on February 21, 1938.⁹² It is unknown when the two were married, but there is a strong chance that it was before May 20, 1920 when their child Clarence Louis Orion Michael (1920-1980) was born.⁹³ It is also unknown at this time when Irene died.

Louisa Elza Schulze (1884-1980) was born on December 18, 1884 to William Schulze (1854-1920) and Freda Hermann (1852-1903). When she was 16 the family lived in Ula, Custer, Colorado.⁹⁴ **Hermann Fredrick Hanssen (1887-1970)** was born on September 29, 1887 in Roseta, Colorado. On November 30, 1911, Hermann and Louisa got married in Westcliffe, Colorado.⁹⁵ In 1917, he received a United States Draft Card, but it is unknown at the time what role he played in World War

⁹² "California, County Birth and Death Records, 1800-1994", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QGN4-7118> : 1 March 2021), Charles B Schmitt, 1938.

⁹³ "California, County Birth and Death Records, 1800-1994," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QGL4-W9TT> : 1 March 2021), Clarence Louis Orion Michael Schmitt, 20 May 1920; citing Birth, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, United States, California State Archives, Sacramento.

⁹⁴ "United States Census, 1900", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MQM3-ZPD> : 11 March 2022), Else Schulze in entry for William Schulze, 1900.

⁹⁵ "Colorado Statewide Marriage Index, 1853-2006," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KNQW-RML> : 19 February 2021), Herman Hanssen and Else Schulze, 30 Nov 1911, Westcliffe, Custer, Colorado, United States; citing no. , State Archives, Denver; FHL microfilm 1,690,085.

I.⁹⁶ On November 4, 1970, Hermann passed away in Westcliffe, Colorado.⁹⁷ A decade later on April 5, 1980, Louisa passed away in Westcliffe, Colorado.⁹⁸ The *Cañon City Record* is a possible newspaper that Louisa and Hermann may have read to get their news about the area in the early years of their marriage. The newspaper was published between 1911 and 1929.⁹⁹

Iva Mae Faughn (1891-1958) was born on December 1, 1891.¹⁰⁰ **James Levin Neighbours (1881-1958)** was born on April 1, 1881 in Arlington, Oklahoma.¹⁰¹ They got married on April 30, 1906 in Chandler, Oklahoma.¹⁰² In 1917, James received a United States Draft Card.¹⁰³ He received a second

⁹⁶ "United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KZK8-ZP8> : 24 December 2021), Herman F Hanssen, 1917-1918.

⁹⁷ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/42270996/herman-fredrick-hanssen> : accessed 29 April 2022), memorial page for Herman Fredrick Hanssen (29 Sep 1886–4 Nov 1970), Find a Grave Memorial ID 42270996, citing Hope Lutheran Cemetery, Westcliffe, Custer County, Colorado, USA ; Maintained by D A (contributor 47175252) .

⁹⁸ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/42270722/elsa-louise-hanssen> : accessed 29 April 2022), memorial page for Elsa Louise Schulze Hanssen (18 Dec 1884–5 Apr 1980), Find a Grave Memorial ID 42270722, citing Hope Lutheran Cemetery, Westcliffe, Custer County, Colorado, USA ; Maintained by D A (contributor 47175252) .

⁹⁹ "The Canon City Record With Which Is Consolidated the Canon City Cannon (Canon City, Colo.) 1911-192?," Library of Congress, accessed April 25, 2022, <https://www.loc.gov/item/sn90051333/>.

¹⁰⁰ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18048012/iva-mae-neighbors> : accessed 29 April 2022), memorial page for Iva Mae Faughn Neighbors (1 Dec 1891–28 Dec 1958), Find a Grave Memorial ID 18048012, citing Kellerby Cemetery, Arlington, Lincoln County, Oklahoma, USA ; Maintained by MaryO~muryjofrancine (contributor 46887007) .

¹⁰¹ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18048201/james-levin-neighbors> : accessed 29 April 2022), memorial page for James Levin Neighbors (1 Apr 1881–28 Dec 1958), Find a Grave Memorial ID 18048201, citing Kellerby Cemetery, Arlington, Lincoln County, Oklahoma, USA ; Maintained by MaryO~muryjofrancine (contributor 46887007) .

¹⁰² "Oklahoma, County Marriages, 1890-1995." Database with images. *FamilySearch*. "Oklahoma, County Marriages, 1890-1995," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q2Z5-2G2G> : 22 July 2021), James L Neighbors and Iva M Faughn, 30 Apr 1906; citing Oklahoma, various county courthouses, Oklahoma; FHL microfilm.

¹⁰³ "United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KZDN-D5Z> : 25 December 2021), James Levin Neighbors, 1917-1918.

on in 1942.¹⁰⁴ Iva and James passed away on December 28, 1958 in Arlington, Oklahoma.¹⁰⁵

Lottie Ellen Fern McGail (1883-1948) was born on October 3, 1883.¹⁰⁶ **Fred Breedlove (1879-1941)** was born on April 20, 1879.¹⁰⁷ Lottie and Fred were married on January 20, 1901 in Howard, Indiana.¹⁰⁸ Fred passed away on January 7, 1941 in Kokomo Indiana.¹⁰⁹ Lottie passed away on September 23, 1948 in Kokomo, Indiana.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁴ "United States World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XPTN-56L> : 24 November 2020), James Levin Neighbours, 1942; citing NARA microfilm publication M1936, M1937, M1939, M1951, M1962, M1964, M1986, M2090, and M2097 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

¹⁰⁵ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18048012/iva-mae-neighbors> : accessed 29 April 2022), memorial page for Iva Mae *Faughn* Neighbors (1 Dec 1891-28 Dec 1958), Find a Grave Memorial ID [18048012](#), citing Kellerby Cemetery, Arlington, Lincoln County, Oklahoma, USA ; Maintained by MaryO~muryjofrancine (contributor [46887007](#)) .

¹⁰⁶ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/45497916/laura-ellen-fern-breedlove> : accessed 29 April 2022), memorial page for Laura Ellen Fern "Lottie" McGail Breedlove (3 Oct 1883-23 Sep 1948), Find a Grave Memorial ID [45497916](#), citing Crown Point Cemetery, Kokomo, Howard County, Indiana, USA ; Maintained by John C. Anderson (contributor [47208015](#)) .

¹⁰⁷ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/45497904/frederick-breedlove> : accessed 29 April 2022), memorial page for Frederick "Fred" Breedlove (20 Apr 1879-7 Jan 1941), Find a Grave Memorial ID [45497904](#), citing Crown Point Cemetery, Kokomo, Howard County, Indiana, USA ; Maintained by John C. Anderson (contributor [47208015](#)) .

¹⁰⁸ "Indiana Marriages, 1811-2019", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QPWZ-R5HV> : 3 September 2021), Fred Breedlove and Lottie McGail, 1901.

¹⁰⁹ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/45497904/frederick-breedlove> : accessed 29 April 2022), memorial page for Frederick "Fred" Breedlove (20 Apr 1879-7 Jan 1941), Find a Grave Memorial ID [45497904](#), citing Crown Point Cemetery, Kokomo, Howard County, Indiana, USA ; Maintained by John C. Anderson (contributor [47208015](#)) .

¹¹⁰ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/45497916/laura-ellen-fern-breedlove> : accessed 29 April 2022), memorial page for Laura Ellen Fern "Lottie" McGail Breedlove (3 Oct 1883-23 Sep 1948), Find a Grave Memorial ID [45497916](#), citing Crown Point Cemetery, Kokomo, Howard County, Indiana, USA ; Maintained by John C. Anderson (contributor [47208015](#)) .

Sarah Elizabeth Keever (1880-1906) was born January 26, 1880 in Clinton County, Indiana.¹¹¹ **Thomas Jeremiah Swisher (1870-1942)** was born on February 20, 1870 in Indiana.¹¹² They got married on April 18, 1896 in Clinton, Indiana.¹¹³ Sarah passed away on April 13, 1906, in Kokomo, Indiana.¹¹⁴ Thomas lived several more decades and passed away on November 5, 1942.¹¹⁵

¹¹¹ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/5886737/sarah-elizabeth-swisher> : accessed 29 April 2022), memorial page for Sarah Elizabeth Keever Swisher (26 Jan 1880-13 Apr 1906), Find a Grave Memorial ID 5886737, citing Hopewell Cemetery, Frankfort, Clinton County, Indiana, USA ; Maintained by Ruby Ambler (contributor 46479543) .

¹¹² *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/5886740/thomas-jeremiah-swisher> : accessed 29 April 2022), memorial page for Thomas Jeremiah Swisher (20 Feb 1870-5 Nov 1942), Find a Grave Memorial ID 5886740, citing Hopewell Cemetery, Frankfort, Clinton County, Indiana, USA ; Maintained by Ruby Ambler (contributor 46479543) .

¹¹³ "Indiana Marriages, 1811-2019", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:WYYQ-QHPZ> : 5 April 2022), Sarah E Keever in entry for Thomas Swisher, 1896.

¹¹⁴ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/5886737/sarah-elizabeth-swisher> : accessed 29 April 2022), memorial page for Sarah Elizabeth Keever Swisher (26 Jan 1880-13 Apr 1906), Find a Grave Memorial ID 5886737, citing Hopewell Cemetery, Frankfort, Clinton County, Indiana, USA ; Maintained by Ruby Ambler (contributor 46479543) .

¹¹⁵ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/5886740/thomas-jeremiah-swisher> : accessed 29 April 2022), memorial page for Thomas Jeremiah Swisher (20 Feb 1870-5 Nov 1942), Find a Grave Memorial ID 5886740, citing Hopewell Cemetery, Frankfort, Clinton County, Indiana, USA ; Maintained by Ruby Ambler (contributor 46479543) .